

Summer  
2010

MONTANA'S DUI TASK FORCES

preventing impaired driving and crashes

# Task Force Exchange

## DUI Treatment Courts

### A new approach to breaking the cycle of recidivism

By Lonie Hutchison, Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator

The DUI court is a distinct court system dedicated to changing the behavior of convicted DUI offenders. DUI courts offer a long-term solution that breaks the cycle of recidivism by focusing on the addiction at the center of the offender's sentence rather than as an afterthought.

Entry into DUI court is voluntary, and the person signs a contract with the DUI court. The court works with offenders to effect a long-term change in behavior by treating the underlying substance abuse issues rather than focusing only on punishing the offender.

**Chemical dependency treatment is emphasized, and is accompanied by intensive monitoring/testing.**

This typically includes the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) bracelet worn by defendant for 30-90 days, frequent urinalysis testing, EtG blood testing, requiring the DUI court client to blow into the PBT at every possible opportunity, court appearances, random home/worksite visits, and treatment sessions.

Continued alcohol/drug usage is discouraged through a progressive system of incentives and sanctions. The DUI Court model emphasizes increased accountability and usually involves weekly DUI court sessions before the DUI court team and the Judge. In addition, the court provides access to a variety of other services to help the individual achieve sobriety, learn pro-social behaviors, and become a productive member of society.

With the repeat offender as its primary target population, DUI courts follow the *Ten Key Components of Drug Courts*

*Continued on page 6*

## Montana & the DUI Court model

A DUI court team must attend training before proceeding to implement the DUI court model. The Montana Department of Transportation funded five DUI court teams from the following entities to go to training during FFY 2009:

1. Kalispell Municipal Court
2. Missoula County Justice Court II
3. The 7th Judicial District (Dawson, McCone, Prairie, Richland, & Wibaux Counties)
4. Fort Peck Tribes (the first tribal DUI court in Montana)
5. Butte—Silver Bow County Justice Court

**To date, Montana has four DUI courts up and running:**

- Billings— Municipal Court Judge Mary Jane Knisely presiding
- Kalispell — Municipal Court Judge Heidi Ulbricht presiding
- 7th Judicial District—District Court Judge Katherine Irigoien presiding
- Fort Peck Tribal Court—Judge Danna Runsabove presiding



**Judge Mary Jane Knisely presiding over the Billings Municipal DUI Court.**

# Number of women arrested for drunk driving has jumped 30 percent in past decade

There is an increasing trend in the number of women driving under the influence of alcohol according to the recently released federal report entitled ***Alcohol Impaired Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes by Gender and State 2007–2008***.

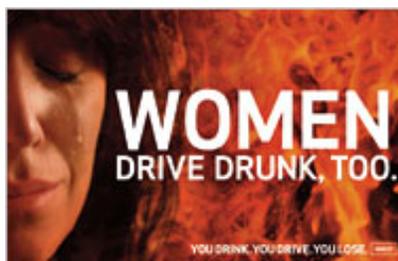
The findings were released in August 2009 as part of a nationwide enforcement crackdown on impaired driving over the Labor Day holiday. The report shows that arrests for women driving under the influence increased by nearly 30 percent from 1998 to 2007.

Over that same time period, arrests for men driving under the influence dropped by 7.5 percent.

The study, conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), found the number of impaired women drivers involved in fatal crashes increased in ten states and remained flat in five states, despite an overall decline of 9

percent in all drunk driver crashes between 2007 and 2008. Overall, about 2,000 yearly traffic fatalities nationwide involve an impaired female driver.

The 10 states with increases in the



*The emotionally charged “Women Drive Drunk, Too” campaign was recently launched in New Mexico.*

number of drunk female drivers involved in fatal crashes are: Ohio, New Hampshire, **Montana**, Nevada, Wyoming, West Virginia, Indiana, Washington, Kansas and Tennessee.

Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, Research Note, August 2009

## Getting through to female drivers

The findings and recommendations of a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study was designed to determine the most effective method for reaching female drivers with anti-DUI messages. According to this study women more than men are affected by PSAs using emotional appeals, depicting children as victims or by showing the impact of drinking and driving on families.

The study found the type of approach best for targeting women is television. Public Service Announcements in which women can identify with the characters were seen as more effective.

The study recommends avoiding humorous PSAs, especially those that might be interpreted as trivializing the message.

# Cops & Docs...A prescription for saving lives

**COPS & DOCS** is an innovative program that joins physicians and law enforcement officers in an effort to reduce alcohol-involved traffic crashes.

The Cops & Docs program works because it involves two professions that are well respected and people are more likely to heed a safety message when it is delivered by someone they trust.

Both physicians and law enforcement officers witness the horrible aftermath of alcohol-involved traffic crashes.

**DOCS** can speak credibly and convincingly about the type of injuries that can be avoided by having a sober driver. You can hear a pin drop when an emergency department doctor shares

real-life stories about crash victims and the life-changing injuries that crash survivors must live with.



**(This x-ray of a broken hip is an example of a typical debilitating injury that often results from a traffic crash.)**

**COPS** work hard to prevent traffic crashes by enforcing the laws on im-

paired driving. DUI arrests can work in changing the attitudes of violators. Attitudes also change when officers share real-life stories about alcohol-involved crashes they've seen.

Add a public information campaign and you are well on your way to making a difference.

A Cops & Docs media event held in a trauma center or rehabilitation clinic is the perfect venue for those injured in impaired driving crashes to speak out. Experience has shown that widespread publicity can affect thousands of people. Cops & Docs teams can take their traffic safety message on the road, speaking to civic and church groups, businesses, schools, and colleges.

# Regional DUI Task Force Meetings

## *July 22—hosted by the Crow & Big Horn County DUI Task Forces*

The Big Horn County and Crow DUI Task Forces offered to organize and host the Regional DUI Task Force meeting held July 22, 2009 at the Little Big Horn Casino in Crow Agency, MT.

Wales Bull Tail, Casino Manager, greeted the 27 traffic safety proponents in attendance with a beautiful soliloquy and prayer on the Teepee as the home and heart of the Northwestern Native Americans, which fit in well with this year's MDT DUI prevention posters of – Empty Homes – showing just the teepee poles and a yellow ribbon for the lost loved ones on the highways of Montana.

### **Five DUI Task Forces were represented:**

- Bill Hodges, Coordinator—Big Horn County DUI Task Force
- Deb Haines, Coordinator—Crow DUI Task Force
- Lori Kane, Coordinator— Carbon County DUI Task Force

- Pat Roos, Coordinator—Custer, Rosebud & Powder River DUI Task Force
- Lonie Hutchison, Coordinator— Missoula County DUI Task Force

**Note:** Mark Humphrey, Coordinator for the Big Horn County DUI Task Force, and an organizer of the meeting, was unable to attend due to a death in his family.

The 5-hour meeting featured an informative agenda of DUI-related topics including:

- Boating Under the Influence (BUI) \*
- Getting the Highway Traffic Safety Message to Teens
- SB39 Joint Resolution of Senate & House
- Victim's Impact Panel in Hardin
- MIP Enforcement
- Supplemental DUI Task Force Funding

**\*Boating Under the Influence (BUI)** has been a hot news topic in Montana lately. DUI Task Force dollars **cannot** be used for education or enforcement of BUI laws. Once a boat is off the lake...well, that's another story. DUI Task Force dollars **can** be used for DUI enforcement in the vicinity of the boat launch areas, parking areas and roads leading to and from the lakes.

## *September 10—hosted by the Flathead County DUI Task Force*

The Flathead County DUI Task Force offered to organize and host the Regional DUI Task Force meeting held September 10, 2009 at Fun Beverage in Kalispell.

### **Six DUI Task Forces were represented:**

- Wendy Olson, Coordinator— Flathead County DUI Task Force
- Jill Campbell, Coordinator — Lake County DUI Task Force
- Carly Thompson, Coordinator— Lincoln County DUI Task Force
- Roni Phillips— Mineral County DUI Task Force
- Lonie Hutchison— Missoula County DUI Task Force
- Gayle Seratt, Member— Sanders County DUI Task Force

### **Other guests who attended:**

- Ivy McGowan— Montana Community Change Project, Northwest Region
- Darbie Morigeau—Montana Community Change Project, Northwest Region
- Erin Inman, Montana Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor— A contractor with the Montana Department of Transportation— State Highway Traffic Safety Bureau

The 5-hour meeting featured an informative agenda of DUI-related topics including:

- Building DUI Task Force Membership & Partnerships
- Marketing your Task Force
- Advertising your DUI Task Force Meetings (as required by State Law)
- Implementing your DUI Plan — importance of timelines
- RASS Training — making the classes fund & interesting
- Statewide DUI Task Force Consortium
- DUI Task Force Annual Report to County Commissioners
- Networking/Brainstorming/Problem Solving

### **A few of the comments received from participants...**

*The networking is so important and helpful!*

*Very positive in regard to how to build & sustain a successful team that can deliver a strong message.*

*Helpful to learn how other communities are handling similar challenges.*

# TOP 10 FREE OR FAIRLY CHEAP

*When the DUI Task Force is active and visible*

## No. 1 Meetings

It costs nothing but your time to meet with task force members and community stakeholders to review crash data and identify strategies to reduce alcohol-involved crashes in your county.



Missoula County DUI Task Force meeting held March 6, 2009

Montana Code Annotated 2007 § 61-2-106: Task Force meetings are open to the public. A Task Force shall give a notice by publication in the community meeting announcement section of a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

## No. 2 Speakers' Bureau

It costs nothing but your time to speak to civic groups, businesses, schools, chambers of commerce, church groups, etc. to share your message about the dangers of impaired driving.

Take advantage of the opportunity to recruit new members and seek financial support.



## No. 3 Letters

It costs nothing but your time and postage to:

- send letters to the Editor of your community newspaper,
- articles to local businesses for inclusion in their newsletters, and
- letters to local policy makers.



## No. 4 Reader Boards



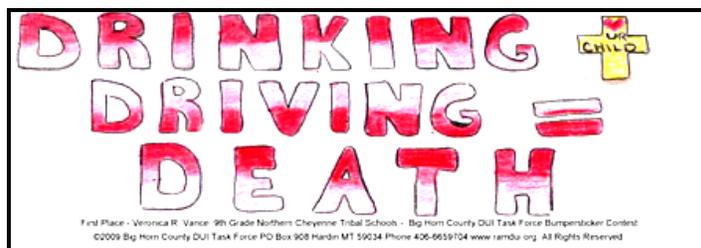
Ask local schools, banks, businesses, casinos, restaurants, etc. to display your messages on their reader boards during targeted times of the year such as holidays, local festivals, rodeos, and National Mobilizations.

**Create Certificates of Recognition** and mail them to those who posted your message along with a cover letter signed by the Chief of Police, Sheriff and your County Commissioners.

**The Loose Caboose Casino**, located at 1100 E. Lyndale Avenue in Helena, displays a mini movie promoting "Alert Cab" — a safe ride alternative to driving impaired. Bryan Sandrock, the Casino's Manager, has given permission for others to use the movie. It has been posted for viewing on the Montana Department of Transportation's website's Homepage at: [www.mdt.mt.gov/](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/)

## No. 5 Poster Contests

- Sponsor a poster, billboard or bumper sticker slogan contest for elementary, high school and college students.
- Ask local businesses and civic clubs to donate prizes.
- Display the entries at city hall, the county courthouse, local shopping centers, etc.
- Ask the media to publicize the results (and mention the DUI Task Force name and message).



The winning entry in the 2009 Big Horn County DUI Task Force bumper sticker awareness campaign was created by Veronica R. Vance, a freshman at Northern Cheyenne Tribal Schools at Busby.

# WAYS TO GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT

*in the community, it increases the possibility for changing the culture.*

## No. 6 RASS Training

Sponsor Responsible Alcohol Sales & Service (RASS) training. RASS is effective in reducing over-service to already intoxicated individuals because most servers are not aware that this is illegal until they attend a RASS class.

The Montana Department of Revenue provides free Train-the-Trainer sessions for their “Let’s Control It” Responsible Alcohol Sales & Service curriculum.

For additional info contact  
Lisa Scates  
Statewide RASS Trainer  
406-444-4307  
LiScates@mt.gov



## No. 7 Merchant Recognition

Recognize businesses that participate in RASS trainings, develop alcohol sales/service policies, etc.



- Hold recognition ceremonies at City Hall or County Courthouse.
- Create recognition certificates signed by the Police Chief, Sheriff, County Commissioners, Mayor, etc.
- Invite the media.
- Ask a local bakery to donate a cake.

## No. 8 Vendor Booth



Staff a vendor booth at a school or shopping center safety fair, or at a local conference, Pow Wow or County Fair.

Obtain free brochures for your info table from the State Highway Traffic Safety Bureau, NHTSA, AAA, etc. Have some PSAs playing on a laptop to attract attention.

## No. 9 Mock DUI Crash

Organize a mock DUI crash scene at a high school football field or the County Fairgrounds and invite local law enforcement, ambulance and fire departments to participate.



## No. 10 Clergy



Include the faith-based community on your task force. Many communities have ministerial associations that can help get the DUI prevention message to the community.

Send short, one-liner “please don’t drink & drive” messages to the clergy in your community for inclusion in church bulletins. **For message ideas visit [www.coremessages.com](http://www.coremessages.com)**

And the *Ten Guiding Principles of DWI Courts*, as established by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the National Drug Court Institute.

### Studies of the effectiveness of DWI Courts reported:

- Offenders from a traditional court were re-arrested nearly six times more often in the first year after starting probation for a DUI charge than DWI Court participants.\*
- In a 2-year period, traditional sentenced offenders were **three times** more likely to be re-arrested for any charge and were **nineteen times** more likely to be re-arrested for a DUI charge than offenders who participated in a DWI Court.\*

\*Source:  
[www.dwicourts.org/learn/about-dwi-courts/research](http://www.dwicourts.org/learn/about-dwi-courts/research)



**Man Charged in Double Fatal Crash Gets Another DWI** was the headline of an Associated Press story on October 20, 2009. The story echoes decades of other articles written about multiple DWI offenders in Montana.

Arrests and incarceration do not fix alcoholism, addiction or chemical dependency any more than it fixes cancer or any other disease. Incarcerating individuals with alcohol and drug addictions does not keep them sober after they are released.

Offenders who have the most need for treatment often escape compliance and accountability because the assessment and treatment resources have not been readily available. Research shows that those who are in need of treatment, but do not receive it, are most likely to re-offend. DWI courts can reduce recidivism because judges, prosecutors, probation staff and treatment staff work together as a team to assure that alcohol treatment and other sentencing requirements are satisfied.

Implementation of the DWI court model, with its strong emphasis on treatment and recovery, has proven to reduce the likelihood that misdemeanor DWI offenders will re-offend and enter the felony system. Offenders in DWI Court programs definitely cost far less than offenders in jail. Investing in DWI Courts not only improves community safety but also reduces the burden on the justice system.

— Lonie Hutchison

## Upcoming Regional DWI Task Force Meetings

### Five Regional DWI Task Force Meetings are slated for August and September.

These regional meetings provide an opportunity to network and collaborate with fellow stakeholders from neighboring counties. DWI Task Forces are welcome to send their Coordinators, members, County Commissioners, etc. to one of these five meetings:

- 8/16 Sidney
- 8/17 Malta
- 8/24 Great Falls
- 8/30 Missoula
- 9/20 Red Lodge

### Agenda items will include:

- Montana's drinking & driving culture — what is being done to change it?
- Reduction of alcohol overservice
- Next steps for Montana DWI Task Forces United
- Media Advocacy

### For more information:

[www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/dwi\\_taskforces.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/dwi_taskforces.shtml)

## Do DWI Victim Panels really work?

DWI Victim Panels are a powerful educational tool. They personalize the possible outcomes and consequences of DWI for the offender. The offense and the penalties it carries are set in the proper perspective. The expectation is that the personal stories leave a lasting impression of the seriousness of the offense, and offenders are less likely to drink and drive in the future.

DWI Victim Panels increase awareness of the different types of DWI victims — all of them having immensely powerful stories to tell.

- **Innocent victims** who are injured or killed in a traffic crash caused by an impaired driver.
- **Partial victims** who are almost always passengers of impaired drivers. They are partially responsible for their injuries because they chose to entrust their safety to a drunk driver. They can also be family members who have been impacted by these life-altering events.
- **Self-victims** who are entirely to blame for the injuries they and other people incur in a drunk driving

crash. Many self-victims spend years in prison, live ruined lives plagued by disabling and humiliating injuries, and suffer permanent stigma and shame for having injured or killed someone.

Do Victim Impact Panels reduce DWI rates and recidivism? One study conducted in Clackamas County, Oregon, concluded that the creation of a victims impact panel program there reduced recidivism among first-time offenders by almost forty percent.

A How To Guide for Victim Impact Panels is available online at:  
[http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/VIP/VIP\\_index.html](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/VIP/VIP_index.html)

# Overservice reduction emerges as a state priority

By Lonie Hutchison, Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator

It appears that here in Montana a person can continue to be served or sold alcohol as long as they can slide their money across the bar or counter. According to the editorial below that appeared in the October 2, 1953 issue of The Plentywood Herald\*, not much has changed in that regard over the years— **until now.**

At the annual Highway Safety Planning Meeting hosted by the Montana Department of Transportation on May 11 & 12 in Helena, overservice made its debut in the Alcohol—and Drug-Impaired Driving Crashes Emphasis Area of the *State Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan*. The Implementation Team for this particular emphasis area identified the following overservice reduction strategies which have been added to the Plan:

1. Responsible Alcohol Sales & Service (RASS) training. Additionally, promote support for sellers/servers of alcohol by the Montana Department of Revenue (MDOR) creating and publicizing a RASS training curriculum specifically for establishment owners.
2. Promote law enforcement practice of tracking impaired driver's alcohol source following a DUI arrest or DUI-related crash and issuing appropriate citations.
3. Bar checks by law enforcement, looking for overservice, with citations issued.
4. Citations are reported to Montana Department of Revenue for appropriate action on the establishment's liquor license.
5. Employ media advocacy to raise awareness of overservice and potential legal consequences to bartenders and establishments.
6. Employ media advocacy to promote responsible drinking and citizen reporting of overservice to law enforcement and Montana Department of Revenue.
7. Promote discontinuation of happy hour, two-for-one specials, or other low-cost drink specials that promote overconsumption.
8. Promote discussion with industry representatives, insurance representative and other stakeholders about other steps for reducing alcohol overservice.
9. Expansion of alcohol screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) protocols.
10. Add RASS training as a requirement attached to special event permits.

Many of the DUI Task Forces have included one or more of these strategies in their SFY2011 DUI Plans.

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Thursday, October 2 THE PLENTYWOOD HERALD

**THE  
Plentywood Herald**  
and Continuation of  
The Medicine Lake Wave  
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## EDITORIAL—

Granted, the sale of liquor is legal in this state, but is the banking of the profit derived from the sale of those few extra drinks that will send a man or woman senselessly reeling out the door, bound for God-only-knows where, really worth it?

The problem of "overserving" has been increasing in Plentywood and Sheridan County, and threatens to become a major problem unless something is done to put a stop to those bartenders and bar-owners who, regardless of the condition of an individual drinker, seem to have put more value on the almighty dollar—the few extra pennies derived from the

sale of those few extra drinks—than on the building of a cleaner, finer Plentywood.

We could go on at length and cite even local examples of broken homes, confirmed alcoholics, fatal automobile accidents, and the like, but we all know about those cases—possibly can look over our backyard fence or glance over at a business associate here in town and murmur, "There's another one." "Can't stay away from it." "Boy, he really was on the one last night." "Too bad about his family!" "It was her daughter that was killed, wasn't it?" and hundreds of like phrases. We hear them every day from one source or the other.

Why does it have to go on? Why can't bartenders refuse service to anyone who appears obviously that "he's had enough?"

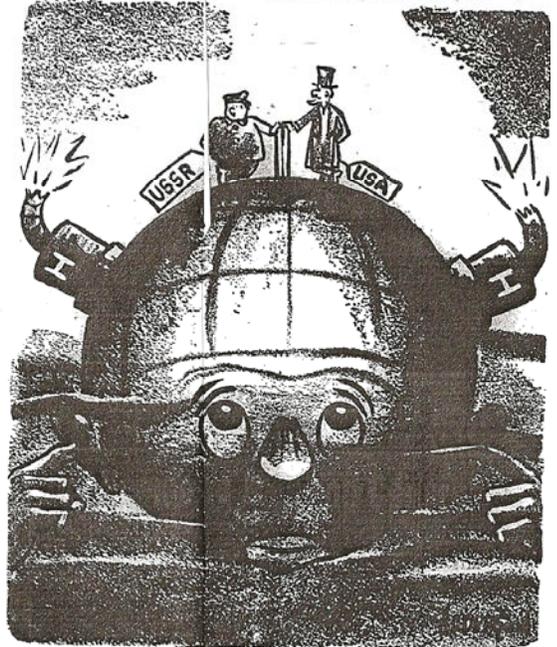
And, another ironical fact—doesn't it seem rather silly and inconsistent to be posting those little signs stating: "WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE TO ANYONE?" Might as well flip them over and scribble on the back side: "If you've still got some money left, and can lift the drink, how about another one?"

(If at that stage of the game, drinker to whom it is directed can even read the sign!)

Since the state approves the privilege of drinking, let's not take advantage of it, barowners. In the long run, you'll be the ones to lose out—after you've wrecked families, property, and lives.

Think it over. Those few extra pennies can't buy back a life.

## Did Someone Mention Controls ?



**POSTING**

**THE  
NATIONAL  
GUARD**

By Gene Popescu

drivers in the proper method of making out trip tickets and filling vehicle repair notices. Sgt. Domonoske instructed the communications men on proper use of the walkie-talkies.

The unit members who had not taken the Army General Classification test were given these tests by Sgt. Lloyd Berg, regular Army advisor for the first battalion of the Montana National Guard.

The first big piece of equipment to arrive for training the men in the unit was expected this week. The shipment has been

communications school respectively.

The unit has divided the men into two teams and the recruiting drive is all set to get under way tomorrow. All interested men between the ages of 17½ and 35 are invited to attend the next guard meeting and get the facts on joining the National Guard.



**FARM  
NEWS**



**FARM  
IDEAS**

## COUNTY AGENT

### Brucellosis Control

Just last week, we received word from Dr. H. F. Wilkins, State Veterinarian, Montana Livestock Sanitary Board, notifying us that we had met the requirements of the Board relating

der the conditions that now prevail it is too dangerous to try burning them off. We suggest that you either mow them where that is possible or postpone any burning until moisture conditions change. Incidentally, speaking of burning, don't forget that the

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# **“But I only had a couple...” Any Drinking Raises Risk of Traffic Crashes, Researchers Say**

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## **Research Summary**

Even one or two alcoholic drinks can increase the risk of getting into an automobile crash, even if it's not technically drunk driving, according to Italian researchers.

Reuters reported September 10 that:

- individuals who consumed one or two drinks within 2-6 hours of driving more than **doubled** their risk of getting into a crash.
- Having more than two drinks **tripled** the risk of a crash.

Researcher Stefano Di Bartolomeo of the Università degli Studi di Udine and colleagues drew their conclusions from interviews of emergency-room patients who had been in car crashes; drivers were asked about their alcohol and food consumption prior to the crash, as well as how much sleep they had gotten.

The study also found that drinking combined with sleep deprivation greatly increased the risk of a crash.

The study was published in the September 1, 2009 issue of the journal *BMC Public Health*.

Visit [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org) for complete news coverage, resources and advocacy tools to advance effective drug and alcohol policy, prevention and treatment.



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## **We Want Your Comments**

### **A CALL TO ACTION!**

Please enhance the effectiveness of statewide efforts to reduce alcohol-involved crashes, injuries & fatalities in Montana by sharing your expertise, concerns, opinions, projects, challenges, successes, helpful websites, etc. with other traffic safety advocates in the state.

Email or mail articles for inclusion in this newsletter to:

Lonie Hutchison  
Statewide DUI Task Force Facilitator  
Missoula City-County Health Department  
301 West Alder Street  
Missoula MT 59802

Office 406-258-3880  
Cell 406-546-9640  
[hutchisonl@ho.missoula.mt.us](mailto:hutchisonl@ho.missoula.mt.us)

**Thank you for your dedication and support.**

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## **MONTANA'S DUI TASK FORCES**

preventing impaired driving and crashes

[www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/dui\\_taskforces.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/safety/dui_taskforces.shtml)

This site includes many resources for DUI Task Forces, including a contact list of DUI Task Forces in Montana.



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