



Saved By the Belt Award Program

# PURPOSE:

Due to the dramatic number of fatalities and incapacitating injuries as a result of motor vehicle crashes and the misuse or non-use of seat belts and child safety seats, the **Saved by the Belt Award Program** was instituted. This program honors and recognizes individuals involved in crashes that were saved because they were wearing a seat belt or properly restrained in a child safety seat. It is hoped that communities around the state will promote seat belt and child safety seat use, by using positive reinforcement in the way of awarding “saved” individuals for their conscientious use of occupant restraints and in turn, encourage others to do the same.

# Who can nominate for the award?

- Buckle up coalitions
- DUI Task Forces
- First Responders
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Hospital Staff
- Others committed to the project



# Who is eligible for the award?



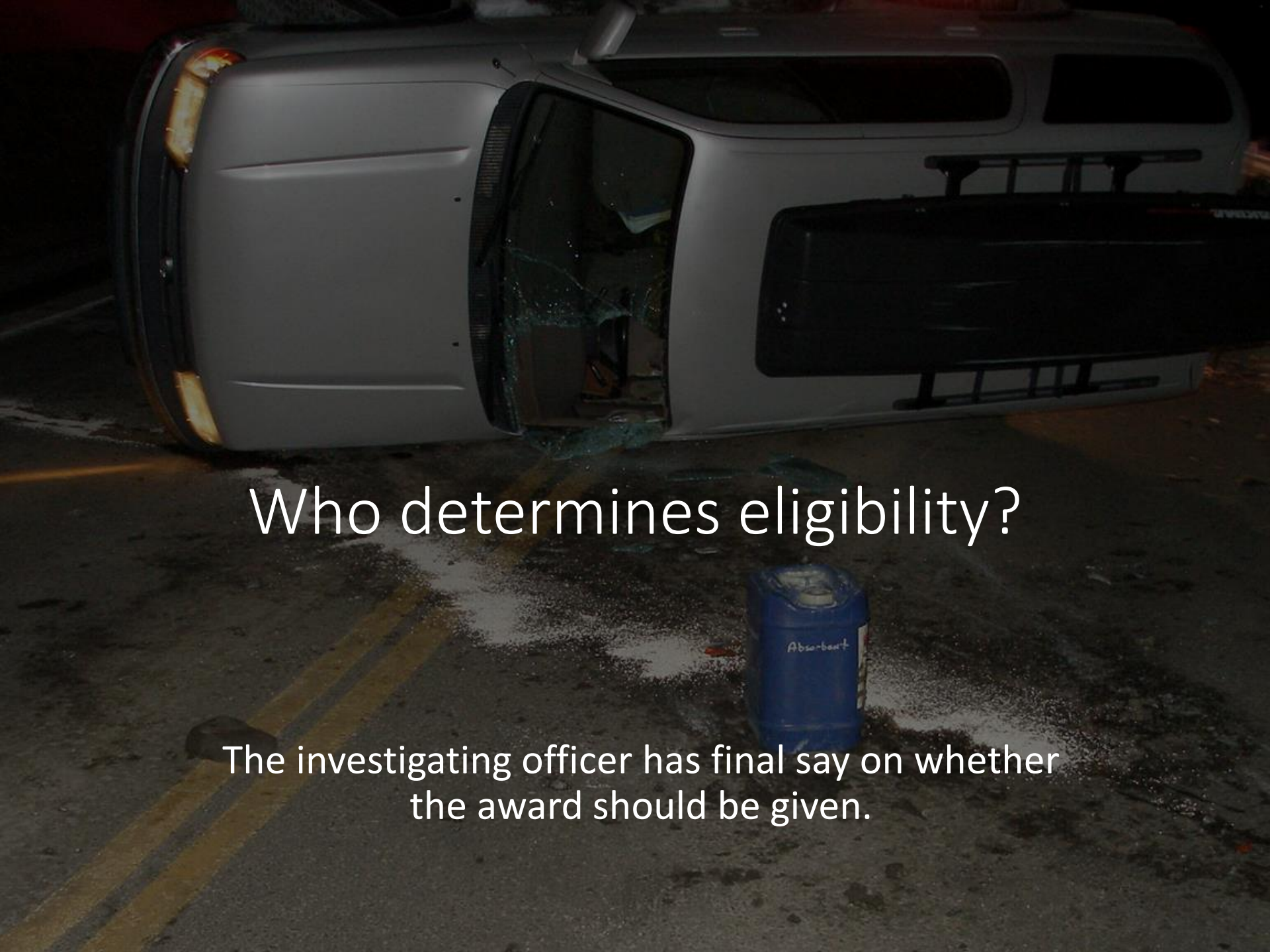
- Any survivor who was properly wearing their seatbelt
- Any surviving child safely using a properly installed child safety seat



# When shouldn't a person be nominated?

- When alcohol or drugs are involved in the crash
- Reckless driving
- Negligent vehicular assault/homicide violations





Who determines eligibility?

The investigating officer has final say on whether the award should be given.

# What's Next?

- Submit nomination form to Pam Buckman with DOT/Buckle Up Montana

Pam Buckman  
MDT-Buckle Up Montana  
PO Box 201001  
2701 Prospect Ave  
Helena, MT 59620-1001

[pbuckman@mt.gov](mailto:pbuckman@mt.gov)

# Award Presentation

Suggest press conference with local media, lunch or school presentation.

Invite all recipients to the presentation including children.

Invite public officials, business leaders, insurance agencies.

Involved first responders

Local AAA



Recipients receive:

One year  
membership  
from AAA

Certificate  
from Buckle  
Up Montana