



## Emergency Response - Post-Crash Care Emphasis Area Meeting Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan

Date: November 26, 2024

### Attendees:

Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, Dept. of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS) - Co-chair  
Shari Graham, EMS System Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Bureau, DPHHS - Co-chair  
Carol Kussman, Quality Improvement Coordinator, EMS & Trauma Systems-DPHHS  
Janet Trethewey, EdD, EMT, Cardiac Ready Communities Program Manager, DPHHS  
Kelly Little, EMSC, EMS & Trauma Systems-DPHHS  
Major Chan Barry, Operation Commander, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)  
Pam Langve-Davis, CHSP Manager, Planning Division, MDT  
Sgt. Tammy Perkins, Records Management Supervisor, Tow Truck Administrator, MHP  
Tammy Ross, Transit & Safety Planning Bureau Chief, Planning Division, MDT  
Bob Seliskar, Safety & Operations Specialist, FHWA

Meeting Purpose: Provide a status update of strategies activities and measurable outcomes related to the Emergency Response – Post-Crash Care Emphasis Area strategies in reducing morbidity and mortality of Montana’s roadway users.

### Strategy Updates

#### **Strategy 1 - Access to the Emergency Response System; On-Scene Care Training & Education.**

Emergency medical dispatch (EMD) is a service where trained 911 telecommunicators provide instructions for medical care to bystanders prior to EMS arrival.

##### *S1.1: Support Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) training for all dispatch centers*

- EMS submitted a request for funding to update EMD training to align with the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) Safe System Approach Post Crash Care strategy [Post-Crash Care | US Department of Transportation](#) but was not awarded NHTSA funding. The EMD guide has not been updated since 2016; issues include dated materials, upgrades in technology, continual turnover of dispatchers; dispatchers without training.
- EMS section will need to assess avenues to complete update. The EMD training includes development of a flipbook/ response guide, training materials, and teach the trainer courses, Update of the EMD flipbook will be the 2025 performance measure.

#### **Strategy 2 - Safe & Rapid Transport of Crash Victims and Training of Emergency Responders**

Well-equipped ambulances with trained staff are mandatory to ensure rapid transport. EMS education and training needs to be on-going, with providers enhancing their skills and knowledge. Communication and quick response to on-scene crash sites by Traffic Incident Management (TIM) teams is priority to secure and clear crash sites to reduce additional crashes and ensure safe travel for the motoring public.

##### *S2.1: Support ongoing education and training of emergency care responders.*

Education & training to include Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)- MDT Grant,

- FFY 2024 courses wrapping up. Six trainings were scheduled and five were delivered as one hospital had to cancel training.
- Received FFY 2025 grant funding for five trainings.

##### *S2.3: Support and promote Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS) Training (SSA:PCC 2)*

Since retirement of champion in August 2023, TIMS training has continues but reporting sporadic. FHWA has a new point of contact that will be working on reviving the program in the coming year. Updates and access to reporting and yearly goals will need to be conducted in 2025. More information can be found at [Welcome to Traffic Incident Management \(TIM\) - Office of Operations](#)

- No progress to report in 2024.

### **Strategy 3: Hospital-Based Trauma Care**

*S3.1: Support ongoing education and training of the trauma team.*

Education and training including but not limited to- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course (ENPC) and Trauma Education Assessment Management (TEAM) course funded with MDT Grant, among others.

- FFY 2024 training measurables completed.
  - ENPC 6 courses completed: Missoula, Billings, Kalispell and Great Falls
  - TEAM 11 courses completed
    - Columbus
    - Livingston
    - Terry
    - Plains
    - Ronan
    - Fort Benton
    - Community Medical
    - Wolf Point/Poplar
    - Crow Agency
    - Ft. Belknap
    - Conrad
  - ATLS 5 courses completed.
    - Billings
    - Kalispell
    - Missoula
    - Billings
    - Great Falls

*S3.2: Support and further trauma center designation for all Montana facilities that care for injured persons.* Increased number of voluntarily designated trauma centers across the state.

Recent designation of Billings St V's receiving a Level I Trauma Center designation, making two in Billings.

- FFY 2024 Measurable to Increase designated trauma centers. Currently: 42 Trauma Centers.

*Strategy 3.3 Continue to support and promote Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium (RMRTS)*

2025 event being planned for Planned for Missoula September 11-12<sup>th</sup> at Fairmont Hot Springs.

Information & registration is forth coming.

- 2024 RMRTS: Successful event with ~ 390 medical personal attending

*Strategy 3.4: Support and further Pediatric Ready Recognition for all Montana Facilities*

The mission of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program is to reduce child and youth mortality and morbidity caused by severe illness or trauma.

- FFY 2024 Measurable. Increase the number of Pediatric Ready facilities. Currently: 18

### **Strategy 4- Integrate Crash, EMS, Trauma and Roadway Surveillance**

*S4.1: Utilize ESO/Digital Innovations (DI) data (Trauma Registry) to analyze hospital treatment of the patient and implement performance improvement using the data (SSA:PCC3)*

- New, long term-ongoing project to be implemented over the next four (4) years. Working on funding mechanism with a potential for Traffic Records Strategic Plan/ Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRSP/TRCC) grant for cost of new registry platform (ESO) and update Montana's Trauma Systems. This will enable all agencies to be on the same platform.

### **Strategy 5- Provide Statewide Injury Prevention Education to Communities Through a Collaborative Effort**

*Strategy 5.1 Promote educational training and outreach that promote injury prevention-based n data driven strategies identified and included in the CHSP, i.e. HSP behavior-based programs.*

- 2024 Measurable to continue to promote injury prevention education and awareness: DPHHS Injury Prevention Coordinator continues to promote and push out NHTSA Traffic Safety Messaging [Traffic Safety Marketing | NHTSA](#) through social media and Health in the 406 [Health in the 406](#)

## **Strategy 6- Support Laws, Policy Development and Legislation**

*S6.1: Support activities surrounding policies and regulations that provide for emergency care access, EMS, facility designation and care standards.*

- Working on pulling together data and information for an Executive packet for upcoming Legislative session focusing on Emergency Medical and Trauma Services funding. Funding has not been changed since the conception of the program while population, marijuana use, and opioid use have increased.
- EMSTS office is now sending out a quarterly newsletter to all emergency care providers and medical directors. If you have anything you want to include for that audience, please send it to Janet Trethewey for inclusion, i.e., upcoming trainings, announcements, etc.

*S6.2: Support state law and enhance driver awareness of Montana's Mover Over Law, including tow operators and vehicles. Focus continues to promote awareness of Slowing Down and Moving Over for all working in and responding to roadway incidents.*

- *No report on State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS) development of Slow Down, Move Over radio and video media and distribution plan.*

### **Announcements- 2025 Meeting schedule**

Emergency Response- Post-Crash Care (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month, 9-11 AM, beginning in February & on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November)

- Feb 27
- May 22
- Aug 28
- Nov 20

**Adjourned at 10:57 a.m.**