

Subject: Fantastic Occupant Protection Work!

Hello Team!

I went directly to a live and satellite Texas technical update, following Phase VII, and now I'm back in my office. My Montana notes and photos were a great thing to review on the planes, and want to share a bit of it.

Phase VII was a combination effort to empower officers and 1st responders with accredited training, to provide Crash Injury & Healthcare where it hasn't yet reached, and to continue work on the Flathead Reservation. Tracie, Stacey, Ivy and Emily worked hard to draw the support of their local agencies, and they were very successful at doing just that! From what I heard, some of the participating partners have been dormant for years, but they came to the presentations and are definitely supportive of more efforts. As a matter of fact, some of the new and renewed agency partners are now eagerly awaiting the 2008 certification class schedule! I was amazed at the enthusiasm I witnessed, during the presentation segments Patty did on state programming, resources and training availability.

We started out in Helena, with 1st responders, and some key folks were among the attendees. They now want to make sure that folks from the other two shifts get the same training, and they are very interested in certification. And to give you a little more perspective, all this happened hours before Tracie left for her successful CPS instructor candidacy, where she passed with flying colors, and I heard that my sentiment about Montana's great state and local teamwork was echoed there. Congratulations, Tracie!

Then we went to Bozeman for three (yes three) back-to-back law enforcement trainings. It was a tough schedule, but we were able to reach folks from all three shifts and several agencies. Stacey and her fantastic partners made it happen, and key folks from local law enforcement are convinced that they can (will) fill a certification class. Not only that, but we may gain another instructor or two in that area.

Off we went to Hamilton, for 1st responder and officer training. The commitment was outstanding, and we actually had to add more chairs to seat more officers than expected. Ivy did a wonderful job bringing them in, communicating directly with attendees, and keeping the personal and professional commitment where it needed to be. I'm betting that Hamilton will soon have some new techs, too.

And then it was time for Polson and Flathead to have a turn. We were able to make a number of nurses, doctors and other medical staff more aware, and the participation was even mandated for OB. It sounds likely that childbirth classes will soon include occupant protection, and other facility areas will actively promote buckling up with posters, materials and verbal reinforcement. Emily made a great class happen and will do a great job following up! And she also took us to the reservation, where we conducted a special training for tribal officers. A couple of the attendees had previously been to our Academy classes, but they wanted to participate again and they bolstered the enthusiasm of those who had not.

We also did some live and taped radio work, during the week, and we finished up by planning for future projects in Helena.

The Phase was VERY successful, as usual, and a lot of families will be better protected because of the work you are doing. If you can do this well when the weather is hot and the air is thick with smoke, I'm guessing you can overcome anything! And the new partnerships and likely techs will go a long way to ensure that!

Keep up the great work, and please take a look at the photos I've attached. If you need any individual shots for your promotional efforts or files, please let me know. See you at the update class and instructor workshop in September!

Joe

Joseph M. Colella
Traffic Safety Projects
7718 Harvest Hills Court
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771-8442
301-829-8637
ColellaSafety@comcast.net