



Montana Trooper

On the Road

On November 12, 2010, a Ford pickup was eastbound on Becraft Lane in Lockwood when the male driver veered off the roadway to the left, drove through three fences and a back yard for approximately 150 yards, and then struck a deck and a house. The truck fully penetrated the home, entering the dining room and living room, even pushing out the far wall on the opposite side of the house. Even though two people were home, luckily, no one was injured, and the cause of the crash remains under investigation. This crash was investigated by Trooper Dell Aman (MHP 158).



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On June 16th, 2010, an alcohol impaired driver in a white Chevrolet Suburban made a left turn in front of the pictured Chevrolet Trailblazer which was north bound on Highway 93 in Ravalli County. Contributing factors of rain and darkness were enough so that the impaired driver either did not see the closely approaching vehicle or misjudged its distance, resulting in a nearly head-on crash. The Trailblazer driver, though properly restrained, still incurred serious injuries. The unrestrained Suburban driver was thrown across the cab and sustained a serious head injury. As of late October, the Trailblazer driver was still recovering both mentally and physically to regain her life (she's had five surgeries), and she wishes to begin public speaking against impaired drivers and to promote use of seatbelts. The

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Suburban driver died of non-crash related medical conditions approximately three weeks after the crash. This crash was investigated by Trooper Rocky Bailey (MHP 261), with assistance from Ravalli County S.O., Stevensville P.D., MHP Sergeant Ken Breidenbach, and Troopers Patrick Heaney and Chad Dever.



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On October 5th, 2010, an eighteen year old driver in his white Nissan Maxima pulled onto a five lane section of US Highway 93 and started driving north bound in the south bound lane. The driver was distracted adjusting the bass levels of his very impressive stereo system. He narrowly missed being struck head-on by a pickup pulling a twenty foot trailer. More than three hundred yards north of the intersection, the teen driver noticed that he was driving in the wrong lane and there was another pickup coming towards him. The teen swerved to his right, into the center turn lane, just as the southbound pickup driver swerved left, trying to avoid a collision. The vehicles struck head-on in the turn lane. Damage was significant to both vehicles, but because both drivers were properly restrained, they were both released from the E.R. later that night with no broken bones or internal injuries. Neither vehicle was equipped with a Supplemental Restraint System (air bags). The teen driver was issued notice to appear for careless driving. This crash was investigated by Trooper Rocky Bailey (MHP

261) with assistance from Troopers Chad Dever, Rich Salois, and Andrew Novak.



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On August 13, 2010, in Big Horn County, a 2000 Dodge Durango was being driven at a high rate of speed when the intoxicated driver drove through a stop sign at a T-intersection, crashing through a guardrail and rolling in a field, after which the vehicle caught fire. The passenger was killed in this one vehicle crash, which was investigated by Trooper Tony Beehler (MHP 172).



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District VII troopers worked as a part of the security detail for Vice President Joe Biden during his visit to Montana in July of 2007.



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Troopers Baggs and Taylor worked with BNSF Police and the BNSF Railroad with an Operation Lifesaver Crossing Enforcement Operation in Great Falls on September 30, 2010. The operation was very successful, and they made sixteen traffic stops on vehicles which failed to stop at multiple crossings for the train.



Pictured left to right: Ron Harris, BNSF Police; Tom Anderson, BNSF Police; Clark Wheeler, Operation Lifesaver; Kent Shepard, BNSF Resource Protection; Mickey Jones, BNSF Conductor; John Winterrowd, BNSF Engineer; Tom Taylor, MHP Trooper, and David Baggs, MHP Trooper. Photo by Captain Kenton Hicketier (MHP 102).

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On September 13, 2010, at approximately 0002 hours, this 1990 Saab was westbound on Interstate 90 at milepost 505 when the intoxicated driver lost control of the vehicle and traveled

through the median, rolling, and coming to rest in the eastbound lanes. Shortly thereafter, an eastbound commercial vehicle struck the Saab, and both unrestrained vehicle occupants were fully ejected and died at the scene. This fatal crash was investigated by Trooper Joe Coughlin (MHP 234) with assistance from Troopers Tome (MHP 345), Sampson (MHP 290), Beehler (MHP 172), and Freivalds (MHP 300), as well as MCS Officers Dandrea and Peigneux, the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



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Pictured is Trooper Jim Sulages on foot patrol at a recent MSU Bobcat football game. The Montana Highway Patrol began providing troopers for foot patrol at the request of MSU University Police to assist them in making the game experience a more family oriented event.



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On May 18, 2010, on Highway 89 near Emigrant, the driver of the northbound white Toyota turned in front of the southbound pick-up in the background, and had the passenger side of his vehicle sheared off as a result. This crash was investigated by Sergeant Steve Wisniewski.



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