



Laramie County Safe Communities

Summer Newsletter 2012 Volume 3 Issue 1

Fourth of July

July ranks one of the highest months in terms of number of fatal crashes involving alcohol reported in Wyoming. June 10th the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration kicked off their July 4th Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign. This campaign is aimed at reminding individuals to always designate a sober driver or make a plan before deciding to drink and drive. In Laramie County alone there were 43 alcohol related fatal/serious injury crashes and 58 people were fatally or seriously injured. Unfortunately one impaired driver can change the lives



of many people on the road. Laramie County has several options to get people home safe including taxi service, Safe Ride, or the Cowboy Shuttle. With Independence day soon approaching we encourage all residents to be well aware of their options. Remember: Cops are cracking down on drunk drivers and they'll see you before you see them.

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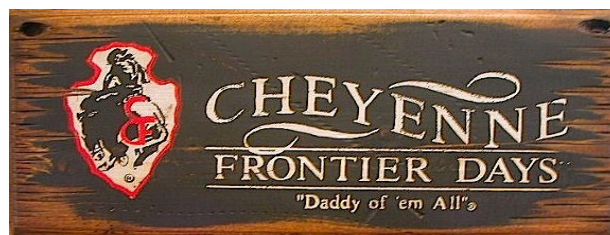
Special points of interest:

- 4th of July Campaign
- Helmet Distribution
- Distracted Driving
- New Staff Member
- Inspection Station

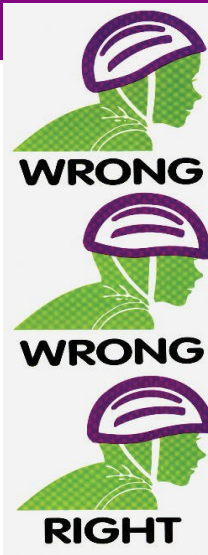
Frontier Days Frontier Days is soon approaching, and last years numbers boasted over 250,000 people during the ten days of activity. A large portion of this count is out of town visitors, which means out of

town drivers. Safe Communities encourages all residents to practice extra caution during these ten days of fun. Wyoming has one of the lowest seatbelt usage rates, reaching only 78.9%. This year lets prove the

statistics wrong by buckling up! The law also states that all hand held mobile phone use is prohibited by the driver of the vehicle at all times. Distracted driving can be extremely dangerous, especially in crowded and busy areas. With downtown and Dell Range seeing more activity July 20–29 please remember to set a good example by keeping both



Bicycle Safety and Helmet Distribution



Cheyenne Celebrated the 30th Annual Superday at Frontier Park on June 23rd. This year Safe Kids Laramie County sponsored a booth offering helmets for all ages. They provided both adults and children with bicycle helmets for \$5 and multi-purpose helmets for \$10. The booth also ensured that all helmets were properly fitted and every visitor left with a wealth of information including proper fitting and usage guides. This event provided over 200 helmets to the public. Safe Communities

encourages helmet protection for every age and every ride. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of a helmet feel free to contact Katie Emmons or Victoria Ingerle at Injury Prevention (307) 633-7527.

- Head injuries account for more than 60% percent of bicycle related deaths.
- Helmets have been proven to reduce the risk of head and brain injury by 85%

Governors Council on Impaired Driving

The Governors Council on Impaired Driving recently held their second annual meeting April 26th in Cheyenne. This meeting had the Policy Analyst subcommittee reporting back. The subcommittee, which has now disbanded, has developed work scope, responsibilities, and priorities for the then vacant Policy Analyst position. The Media subcommittee is still in search of a consultant group to work

with, but they are hoping to find the right fit by this fall. Finally, the DUI Supervision subcommittee is spending time creating action plans for Laramie and Natrona County. Currently this committee is in collaboration with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) to construct a plan possibly similar to the South Dakota “24/7 Sobriety Project”, which has seen great success. Each of

the committees that have been created, along with their subsequent subcommittees, are continuously working to fulfill the objective, which was reinforced at the initial meeting by Governor Mead when he reminded everyone that the goal of the council “...is prevention, to change the culture and convey the message that impaired driving is not acceptable in Wyoming.”

Inspection Station

The inspection station is alive and kicking! In the month of June alone it has been open for three different days and helped a multitude of families. The inspection station is a wealth of information and support led by certified child

4 out of 5 car seats are used wrong, could yours be one of them?

passenger safety technicians. Each tech will show individuals how to properly install the car seat in various cars for all ages of riders. The technicians will also be able to spot any current misuses as well as check for any recalls on car seats. The station is fully equipped with car seats and boosters for those who need them. Vouchers are available to assist any who qualify through the WIC and

City County Public Health office. To view requirements or for more info head to www.health.wyo.gov/familyhealth/wic/index.

	With a Voucher	Without a Voucher
Convertible Seat	\$25.00	\$50.00
Combination Seat	\$30.00	\$70.00
High Back Booster	\$20.00	\$45.00
No Back Booster	\$10.00	\$22.00

Distracted Driving is Up.

Every few months new hand held technology is released. Unfortunately increased technology is leading to an increase in distracted driving. From 2009 to 2010 the number of incidences of distracted driving increased in Wyoming from 10.4%



in 2008 to 12.1% in 2010. A “distraction” is defined as a specific type of inattention that occurs when drivers divert their attention from the driving task to focus on some other activity instead. It is worth noting that distraction also includes fatigue, physical conditions of the driver, and emotional conditions of the driver. The demographic with the

greatest proportion of distracted drivers is the under 20 age group. In fact 16 percent of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. While the Wyoming average of incidences is lower than the national numbers, a change must occur. Many of the distractions that are taking place involve the use of technology such as cell phones and music players. Other common distractions include rowdy passengers

and loud music. Safe Communities offers classes for 13-14 year old students who are gearing up to drive. At these “Countdown 2: Drive” courses we encourage teens to stay off all devices while on the road. An agreement is created between the son/daughter and the parent to keep all focus on the road while in the drivers seat. Countdown 2: Drive classes will start again when the new school year begins.

Newest Addition!

On June 4 another member was added to the team. Katie Emmons will be the new Injury Prevention Assistant working with Safe Communities. She is a recent graduate of the University of Wyoming and a Cheyenne native. Katie is very excited to get going in Injury Prevention. Thus far she has been meeting a lot of people, shadowing at the inspection station, and working on an event at the Big Country Speedway for the 7th of July. Overall Katie hopes to be able to help grow Safe Communities in Laramie County by enhancing community interaction and encouraging involvement.

August Crackdown

August Crackdown is a national campaign against impaired driving. During the end of August and into Labor Day weekend (August 17- September 3) law enforcement will be focusing their efforts on stopping impaired drivers. The campaign revolves around the slogan



“Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” which will be displayed on the highway alert system throughout the state. Driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher is illegal in all 50 states and will result in arrest, fines, and/ or jail time. Government and law officials want to send the message that driving over the legal limit is a serious offense that can often end in serious injury or death. In 2010 nearly 43% of all arrests in Laramie County were DUI offenses, and the average BAC

level was close to double the legal limit. The crackdown will include the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols, especially during high-risk nighttime hours.



Remember, impaired driving is not an accident, it's an epidemic of careless disregard for human life. Drive sober or don't drive at all.

**Cheyenne Regional
Medical Center
Injury Prevention**

For more information on
Safe Kids Laramie County or

Safe Communities contact:

Katie Emmons

(307) 633-75272

Katelynn.Emmons@crmcwy.org

For information on the

Inspection Station contact:

Victoria Ingerle

(307) 432-2679

Victoria.Ingerle@crmcwy.org

Child Passenger Safety Links: www.safekids.org/certification/

Wyoming Seat Belt Coalition: www.wysbc.org

Laws and Legislation:

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/dlstatutes.htm>

Law's In Other States:

www.ghsa.org

www.iihs.org

Other helpful websites:

www.safekidswyoming.org

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

www.saferidenews.org

www.carseat.org

www.wyomingoperationlifesaver.com

Coalition Partners and Members

