



Montana Trooper

On the Road

On June 22, 2013, a late night vehicle rollover crash north of Darby resulted in four of the five occupants of this vehicle being ejected, one of whom was killed. The surviving occupants provided conflicting stories regarding who was driving. This photo was taken during the vehicle inspection the following day at a local body shop. This crash was investigated by Trooper Scott Bennett, with the assistance of Traffic Homicide Investigator Trooper Michael Burman.



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Trooper Joe Coughlin (MHP 234) of Custer submitted this photograph of the rear window of a pickup involved in a DUI crash on November 28, 2013.



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During a snowstorm on December 3, 2013, the driver of this school bus encountered a white-out driving situation and drove off the roadway as a result. No one was injured in the crash, and all the students made it to school,

just not on time. This crash was investigated by Trooper Jessica Hay (MHP 264), Shelby.



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On November 1, 2013, at 1310 hours, Trooper Joel Knutsen investigated this two vehicle crash which occurred on U.S. Highway 87 at mile post 97.1, south of Havre. A 2012 Chevrolet Malibu was northbound, while a 1996 Chevrolet Lumina van was southbound. The driver of the Lumina failed to yield the right of way to the Malibu, turning left directly in its path. After impact, both vehicles traveled off the east side of the roadway, and the Lumina was fully engulfed in flames upon Trooper Knutsen's arrival. Thankfully, all vehicle occupants were wearing seat belts, and no life threatening injuries were reported.



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Here is a photo of two patrolmen herding pigs in the Missoula area, possibly in the late 1960's or early 1970's. The event appears to have been a crash involving a truck hauling pigs, and one of the patrolmen was Ray Smith. Is there anyone out there that has more information on this story and knows who the other patrolman was? If so, please share and enlighten us all. Submitted by Trooper Rocky Bailey (MHP 261), Corvallis.



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The small community of Jackson was blessed with the presence of the Rainbow Family in July of 2013. USFS law enforcement officers discovered one participant in the campground with methamphetamine, and Trooper Scott Bennett took over the case. The suspect was subsequently remanded at the Beaverhead County jail, charged with multiple drug violations.



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This crash occurred on June 5, 2013, on U.S. Highway 12 at mile post 209.5, east of Melstone, in Rosebud County. The semi truck pulled off the road for an oncoming oversized load (a mining dump truck bed) that was taking up the highway. After the oversized load passed, the cattle truck attempted to enter back onto the highway. During this attempt, the cattle trailer became high centered on the highway, and there was complete blockage of both lanes of traffic. A box van was traveling eastbound on U.S. Highway 12, and the driver failed to notice the cattle truck blocking the highway. The driver of the box van applied the brakes a mere 137 feet before colliding with the cattle trailer. The box van penetrated into the cattle trailer and came to a rest. The driver of the van sustained injuries, but during an interview, he advised me he remembered after the crash the cattle in the trailer were licking his face and mooing. Amazingly, no cattle perished in this crash. This crash was investigated by Trooper Mark Shoup of Roundup.



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Trooper Scott Waddell's patrol car is pictured on U.S. Highway 87/89 at mile post 72, at the top of Belt Hill, on September 8, 2013.



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This crash occurred on June 2, 2013, at 1945 hours on Interstate 90 at mile post 130. The vehicle pictured was traveling westbound with a total of five occupants when the vehicle began to hydroplane, and the driver lost control. The vehicle left the westbound lanes,

and after it crossed the muddy median, it rolled into the eastbound lanes. One occupant was ejected and seriously injured in the crash. The other occupants were wearing their seat belts and suffered only minor injuries. The four month old infant was completely unscathed in the crash, as the infant car seat performed as it was designed. Trooper Wade Palmer (MHP 301) investigated this crash with the assistance of Trooper Luke Burson (MHP 169) and Trooper Adam Gane (MHP 210). □

