



## **ENNIS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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### **NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Ennis Police Department has been awarded seven-thousand dollars in grant funding from the Elks Lodge #390 located in Virginia City, Montana for the purchase of Fatal Vision Training Equipment for area schools.

Fatal Vision is a training tool used to vividly demonstrate the concept of impairment and the dangers of impaired driving. Fatal Vision's purpose is not to duplicate impairment caused by a specific level of alcohol or other drug(s) ingested by a human. Alcohol and other drugs have an effect on the brain that results in a variety of impairments. The Fatal Vision goggles distort vision and cause behaviors that are similar to behaviors exhibited by someone under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Young drivers are given a realistic view of the dangers of driving while impaired and the deadly consequences of their choices. The program provides practical exercises to understand decision making, responsibility and consequences. The training program concludes with the use of the Fatal Vision goggles while attempting to operate a cart through a posted route.

This is a vital learning experience especially for teenagers because traffic crashes are the #1 killer of teens, with over 1/3 of those deaths related to alcohol. These young teens are often the passenger of an impaired driver. Using these goggles as a demonstration helps people realize how life threatening it is to get into a car with someone who has been drinking alcohol.

A separate but equally important Fatal Vision Kit includes concussion awareness goggles and activities. Students hear about the dangers and long-lasting effects of concussions that can occur from a bump or blow during sports. These unique goggles let them safely experience how a concussion impacts balance, coordination, and concentration. Safely learning about the side effects in a controlled environment teaches students what to look out for during real-life events.

The Ennis Police Department thanks the Elks Lodge for the grant funding for these important training tools. The Fatal Vision equipment will be available to the four High Schools located in Madison County to help reinforce the dangers of impaired driving and concussions.



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