

Kootenai County Sheriff's Office
Traffic Division
Mock DUI Accident

On Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 9:00 AM, a "Mock" Driving Under the Influence fatal head-on accident investigation began in front of Coeur d'Alene High School on Dalton Avenue west of 4th Street.

The accident scene was watched by the graduating students of Coeur d'Alene High School. Participating in the mock accident scene was Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Traffic Section, Coeur d'Alene Police Department Traffic Section, Coeur d'Alene Fire Department, Life Flight, Idaho State Police & Chaplin, Kootenai Substance Abuse Counsel, Yates Funeral Home, and the six CDA High School student actors.

Car 1 (Non- DUI) -
Driver Lindsey Sales Texting
Front Passenger Cole DeWitt
Back Passenger Kennan Orlandi

Car 2 (DUI) -
DUI Driver Anthony Dahlheimer
Front Passenger Colby Daniels
Back Passenger Tony Naccarato

The students looking on first heard the accident call being received by Central Dispatch, and the subsequent dispatching for responding emergency personnel. Upon arrival of emergency personnel, students watched as rescue efforts commenced for the six injured individuals. This included extraction of the individuals from the vehicles using the "Jaws of Life".

Two of the six occupants of the vehicles were pronounced dead at the scene, one had critical injuries and was flown to a hospital by Life Flight, two were taken by ambulance to a hospital, and the remaining DUI driver was arrested and treated at the scene with minor injuries.

At one point during the ordeal, the mother and father of one of the deceased had arrived on scene to find their son had died from his injuries. The mother of the other deceased also arrived on scene discovering her son had also died during this traffic accident.

This accident scene was conducted for the graduating students in hopes of them learning what can and does happen when you combine alcohol with driving.

After the students witnessed this accident scene, they were escorted to their school gym for an assembly where they received more useful information from Deputies and Police on "Drinking and Driving".

During the time I photographed this incident, I could see the intense look the student's had on their faces. Some were shocked, some frightened, others were crying. Being a father and grandfather, the hardest time I had dealing with this whole ordeal was seeing two mothers and a father being escorted from the accident, crying and knowing their sons would no longer be there.

Staff members from CDA High School said the mock DUI scenario was well received by both students and faculty.

Let's hope we all can learn from demonstrations like this, and not have to learn from actually going through one.