

FLORIDA SHERIFFS

# ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Volume 7, Number 2, 1997

## Torch Run raises big bucks for Special Olympics

The 1997 Florida Law Enforcement Torch Run, a combined effort of Florida's law enforcement and the state's Department of Corrections "was a true success," noted Captain Gene Stokes of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office who serves as the state's torch run director.

Although the money is still coming in from committed sources, it appears that this massive effort will raise in excess of \$277,000 for Special Olympics, so for the third straight year, Florida was top in the country in dollars raised for these special people.

That total comes from a number of sources. First, Walt Disney World was the Official Sponsor of the t-shirts, an integral part of the fund-raising effort. Disney donated \$65,000 to Florida Special Olympics, and allowed the use of some of their characters on the t-shirt effort. At press time, a total of 144 police agencies ordered and sold over 17,000 Torch Run t-shirts at \$10 apiece. Some were worn by the various runners, but many were purchased by law enforcement and corrections officers to support the event.

The Red Lobster "Tip-a-Cop" events, sponsored and held in 52 of 57 Red Lobster restaurants in the state



raised almost \$50,000 as well.

And, this year, the Official Lead Vehicle, a Ford F-350 truck was donated by Sarasota Ford. The vehicle was covered

*continued on page 2*

## SHERIFF IS NRA OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Sheriff Kevin Beary of Orange County, was named the 1996 National Rifle Association (NRA) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

"Sheriff Beary demands the highest standards of professionalism from his employees, he has zero tolerance of criminals, and is a leader in the field of

*continued on page 2*



## DEPUTY WINS TOP EXPLORER HONORS

Thanks to a dedicated adviser, the county's 92 sheriff's explorers are learning about much more than law enforcement.

The word is that St. Lucie County Sheriff's Deputy Barbara Smith is giving lessons in community service, and for her efforts she has been recognized as the top Explorer adviser in the nation.

As coordinator of the local Explorer Post 400, Smith has won the National Sheriffs' Association's Explorer Post Advisor of the Year Award. She beat out six other nominees from across the country and received her award on June 23 in Atlanta.

Smith said she initially didn't even

*continued on page 2*

*continued from page 1*

## Torch Run raises big bucks for Special Olympics

with torch run and Special Olympic decals, and it traveled over 5,000 miles to promote and take part in torch run events.

All in all, fifty-one of the state's sixty-seven counties participated in 19 different torch run events held across the state.

"The Florida Department of Corrections came through for us in royal fashion this year...and they are a welcome addition to our Special Olympic fundraising efforts," said Capt. Stokes, "we cannot thank Secretary Harry Singleary enough for promoting this worthy cause to his thousands upon thousands of correctional personnel throughout the state."

## SHERIFF IS NRA OFFICER OF

### THE YEAR

*continued from page 1*  
citizen involvement in crime control," said NRA President Marion P. Hammer. Beary, a strong believer in the rights of citizens to bear arms, launched a comprehensive firearms training program for civilians, and under strict operating guidelines, he has opened his agency's firing range to civilian groups.

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS

A group of Hostage/Crisis Negotiators representing law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Florida met several months back in Orlando to form The Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators. The association is in the early stages of development and is looking for energetic new members. This is a great opportunity for any and all negotiators within the State of Florida to help form this association. The association has elected officers and an executive board of directors. Please contact the director in the area near your city/county for additional information.

REGION 1 Inv. Chris Summers,  
Tallahassee P.D., 850-922-3492

## DEPUTY WINS TOP EXPLORER

### HONORS

*continued from page 1*  
want to enter the competition, but relented after being prodded by a supervisor.

"I'm not one for taking plaques or getting pats on the back but (my supervisor) kept pushing me," Smith said. "Really I just hoped it would go away, but now I'm glad he did push me."

As a full-time adviser, Smith guides the members of Post 400 as they learn about law enforcement. A division of the Boy Scouts of America, the group meets for two hours weekly and learns about real-life police activities, such as fingerprinting, writing reports and investigating crimes. After a 40-hour training course, they can also ride along with deputies or fly in one of the sheriff's helicopters.

But, if all Post 400 did was study law enforcement, it's unlikely Smith would have been tabbed the nation's top adviser.

During her five years with the sheriff's office the group has grown from 11 members to 92 and has become committed to community service.

Three times a month they fingerprint children and give the prints to the parents. If the children are ever lost or abducted, the prints could be vital for

identification.

The teens also star in a video - "Signal 7" - about the dangers of succumbing to peer pressure, and they regularly assist deputies with crowd control or parking at large community events. At the recent St. Lucie County Fair, one Explorer spotted a man carrying a gun and reported him to deputies. The man was later arrested.

Besides their activities, many in the group have found a home. "It's like a big family, and those who don't have a good home life, this seems to attract them," Smith said. "They find a place that they belong and everybody works as a team."

That she won such a prestigious award doesn't surprise several people who know her. Sheriff Bobby Knowles called Post 400, "Probably the most viable Explorer (post) in the state of Florida...it's quite an honor and speaks very well for the caliber of men and women we have in our sheriff's department," he said.

Ursula Grant, the post's 17 year old captain added that many other Explorer groups concentrate on winning regional shooting competitions. "But Deputy Smith, she feels that us helping the community is more important - which it is," Grant said.

REGION 2 Malcom Adams, Jacksonville S.O.,  
904-630-2191

REGION 3 Sgt. Terry Converse, Gainesville  
P.D., 352-334-2424

REGION 4 Dep. Ron Kramer, Indian River  
County S.O., 561-569-6700

REGION 5 Sgt. Robert Mobley, Lee County  
Port Police, 941-768-4389

REGION 6 Sgt. Robert Artola, Palm Beach  
Gardens P.D., 561-775-8229

### FLEPRU to train in October

The Florida Law Enforcement Property Recovery Unit will hold a "Property Crimes Seminar," at Islamorada, in the Florida Keys, on October 23-24, 1997. Interested parties should call (407) 297-2807 for further information.

### Panhandle area code now 850

Many of you have regular dealings with law enforcement agencies in the panhandle of the state. For that reason, you should be informed that the area code for eighteen (18) north Florida counties changed on June 23.

Hereafter, the following counties now make up the new telephone area code 850: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Franklin, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison and Taylor.

Basically, the new area code includes all of the panhandle counties from Pensacola on the west, to Madison and Perry on the eastern end. In addition to taking note of the change, please check your automatic telephone and fax dialers, etc., to determine if changes need to be made.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



### Vogel wins again...

After keeping up with the statewide news clips written about sheriffs since arriving at FSA almost nine years ago, I feel safe in saying that there has not been a sheriff more scrutinized, investigated, or targeted by the media in the last several years than Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel.

We wrote about Vogel a few years ago, when the *Orlando Sentinel's* Pulitzer-Prize winning investigation of the alleged tactics being employed by his drug interdiction unit on I-95 was debunked by the Institute for Accuracy in the Media (AIM), a nationally renowned and very reputable media watchdog group who makes a full-time job out of exposing those times when the media steps over the line on a particular topic.

AIM's publication known as, *THE AIM REPORT*, titled their headline story, "Another Shameful Pulitzer Prize," and then went on to completely gut the many stories written about Vogel's drug squad, stories which earned the *Sentinel* the most esteemed honor in journalism.

In their expose', AIM characterized the *Sentinel* stories about Vogel as, "reporting tailored to fit a predetermined conclu-

sion by omitting evidence to the contrary....it is especially reprehensible as it was an effort to defeat a successful attack in the war on drugs."

AIM went on to say, "The *Sentinel* series relied heavily upon what has become the "new McCarthyism" of American journalism — the charge that a law enforcement policy is racist and victimizes blacks and other minorities. To racially-correct journalists, the bare fact that enforcement affects a minority person is ipso facto proof that racism is the motivation. Confronted with such peculiar reasoning, the subject of the attack (Vogel, et. al.) is essentially helpless. Truth is submerged in a swirl of goading and inaccurate accusations."

The *Sentinel's* horrific accounts of Volusia's alleged tactics precipitated a 4-year federal investigation of Vogel and many of the men and women who work for him.

It would be hard to appreciate the case of nerves, the lost sleep and the hurtful feelings that would come from such an experience. Imagine being an elected official who is under a constant barrage of a federal investigators and investigative reporters who are working for a major newspaper which blankets your jurisdiction. The papers are telling everyone that you and your deputies are targeting minorities. But, you know in your heart that you did nothing wrong.

It has got to take years off your life.

The *Sentinel* characterized Vogel and his troops as ruthless, uncaring racists who were

targeting African-Americans, to the exclusion of everyone else. Strange, but true, the *Sentinel* went out of its way to avoid ever contacting Capt. Leonard Davis, the guy who was then in charge of Vogel's highway interdiction program. Davis, an African-American himself, would be willing to tell anyone who would listen that his team was targeting people who were suspected of committing crimes, regardless of race or any other factor. No more, no less. But, the reporters didn't want to hear from the unit's supervisor.

Now, four years later, federal officials have just closed their investigation and completely cleared Vogel and his deputies of any wrongdoing whatsoever. I dare say that if any of us were victimized by this kind of injustice, some of us

might be looking more like disgruntled postal workers than respectable public officials.

So how did Sheriff Vogel react recently when the same *Orlando Sentinel* asked him how he felt about the closure of the federal investigation without any finding of wrongdoing? Vogel replied by saying that the controversy itself; the newspaper's Pulitzer-Prize winning bashing of him; the federal probe; two civil rights lawsuits; and unrelated excessive force charges has taught him humility.

"I think it's important for us in these positions to be humble. I think I try to do that," the sheriff said. "You become humble, and you look into ways you can better serve the public." Vogel went on to tell the paper that he was not bitter, and "That anyone in a leadership position has a bull's eye on his chest."

I don't know about any of you, but I have a hard time comprehending how Sheriff Vogel can be so calm and collected after all he's been put through — for nothing.

Congratulations, Sheriff Vogel, to you and the men and women of Volusia S.O.!

Congratulations, too, to the individual who now serves as Vogel's second-in-command, Undersheriff Leonard Davis!



Sheriff Vogel

## FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN

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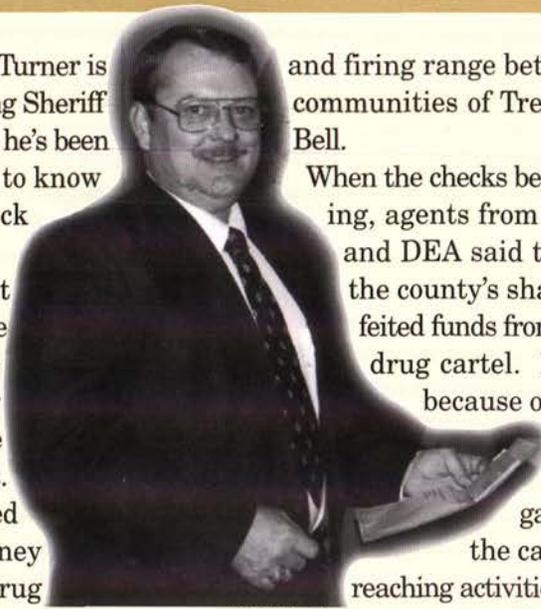
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## GILCHRIST SHERIFF MULLS SURPRISE \$1.2 MILLION CHECK

**TRENTON** - David Turner is relatively new at being Sheriff and still learning, but he's been around long enough to know how to read a check with lots of zeroes.

Turner put that skill to good use recently when he picked up a check for \$1.2 million from the federal government. The check represented proceeds from money seized from illegal drug



and firing range between the communities of Trenton and Bell.

When the checks began arriving, agents from Customs and DEA said they were the county's share of forfeited funds from the Cali drug cartel. However, because of ongoing federal investigations into the cartel's far-reaching activities, federal

officials have not yet explained fully why Gilchrist County shared in the latest round of forfeited money.

Turner said he was told by Customs agents that more money may be coming for Gilchrist County from pending criminal cases.

For now, though, he is focusing on how to spend the \$1.2 million already on hand. Since picking up the check at a sheriff's meeting in Panama City a few months back, Turner has been shopping for the best interest rates that will help the money grow.

"We'll use a small portion of it (about \$100,000) to enhance what we already have - especially with our computer system," Turner said. County commissioners have already given Turner permission to form a committee of county residents to consider using the remaining \$1.1 million to help build a new law enforcement complex.

Gilchrist County has a 30 year old jail, which was renovated a few years ago into a 48 bed facility. At about the same time, inmate labor was used to erect a separate building nearby for most of the sheriff's office operations.

Turner would like to have the jail and sheriff's office back under one roof and to have a jail that would allow the county to house all of its prisoners. Currently, most female and juveniles must be housed at neighboring jails because Gilchrist County does not have adequate cell space to keep them separated from male prisoners.

If a new law enforcement complex were built, Turner said perhaps the county would be interested in taking over the existing sheriff's department as an annex. The county is already using buildings near the courthouse as annexes, and still does not have enough room.

### EMAC - WHAT IS IT?

*By: Ken Morris, Acting Mutual Aid Director, FDLE*

*John Kohnke, Operations Officer, Div. of Emergency Mgt., Dept. of Comm. Affairs*

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) was initially known as the Southern Regional Emergency Management Assistance Compact. However, due to its growth nationally, the compact has become known simply as EMAC. The Compact was initiated at the Southern Governor's Association's 1992 conference in Charleston, SC, following a request by Governor Lawton Chiles in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

The Compact is the first of its kind in the nation, the first to create formal mechanism for member states to assist their neighbors in times of emergency or disaster.

The Compact establishes the

Officials said the department received a portion of millions in confiscated drug money for cooperating with undercover agents working in Gilchrist County several years ago.

Turner said he didn't know exactly what role the sheriff's department had in the operation, but lauded the administration of now-retired Sheriff Jim Floyd for working with federal agents to make the financial award possible for his cash-strapped county.

The check was from U.S. Customs, and it was the latest - and so far largest - in a series of checks made out to the sheriff's department.

To put the significance of the award into context, county officials point out that it nearly matches the size of the entire sheriff's offices \$1.6 million budget this year. The federal checks began coming in back in 1995 in much smaller amounts. The largest previous check was for \$219,218. Some of the previous checks were used to help develop a training building

*continued from page 4*

basis for mutual assistance between member jurisdictions managing any gubernatorial designated emergency or disaster. The innovative agreement provides the framework for:

- The provision of equipment and resources;
- The transfer of fire-fighting and law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, transportation personnel, and search-and-rescue teams; and
- The assistance of relevant state agencies among member states in times of crisis.

In order to become a member of EMAC, a state must enact the Compact into law. At this time, there are twelve member states, including Florida, and several other states in addition to Puerto Rico have it passing through various stages of their legislative system.

The Compact was passed by Florida's legislature and signed by the Governor in 1996. It can be found in Section 252.921, Florida Statutes.

To invoke the Compact, the affected Governor must declare a state of emergency and request assistance from the Governors of other member states. Coordination of the delivery of resources must be accomplished by the states' Emergency Management officials. The requesting state has the responsibility to reimburse the responding states for their assistance.

EMAC represents a major step in expanding emergency response capabilities to the citizens of our country who are impacted by an emergency or disaster situation.

## FHP troopers to carry defibrillators



Col. Ron Grimming, the director of Florida's Highway Patrol, recently announced that FHP would soon become the first state law enforcement agency in the nation to carry semi-automatic heart defibrillators (AED's) in their patrol vehicles.

FHP has applied for a \$300,000 grant from the Florida Department of Transportation through the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration to purchase 90-100 of the units for troopers who patrol remote areas of the state.

It appears that the trend to have other law enforcement officers equipped with AED's is starting to gain interest.

"The units are easy to carry and store, and they're so automatic that just about anyone could operate one with just a small amount of training, noted Major Steve Casey of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the agency which has primary law enforcement jurisdiction throughout the Florida Keys.

Monroe County Sheriff Rick Roth has decided to equip all of his county's court facilities with AED's, and he has trained all bailiffs and some other deputies on the use of the equipment.

"There is no doubt that we'll be saving lives, and that's part of what we're all about," Roth noted.

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## S. O. MEMBERS TO CLIMB MOUNTAINS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

By Dep. Becky Herrin, Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Two employees of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office are getting in shape to tackle mountain peaks that have never been climbed before. Deputy Art Ortolani and Sheriff's Dispatch Supervisor Debbie Shepherd will be taking part in a National Mountain Climbing Expedition in the Baffin Islands of the Canadian Arctic Circle this summer. After the group has successfully conquered the range, each member will have a specific peak named after him or her.

The Baffin Island Expedition, labeled "Expedition Inspiration" will consist of two separate fund raising efforts. One will raise money for scholarships to

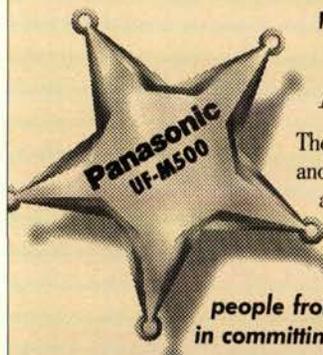


Grenville Christian College, a private residential college-preparatory school just outside of Brockville, Ontario. The scholarships will go to underprivileged youth from the United States who wish to attend the school. In order to participate in the expedition, each member must raise \$10,000 which will go to these scholarships. Debbie and Art have set a personal goal of raising \$100,000 between the two of them. The other group will be raising money for the Whale Conservation Institute, a Boston-based charity which studies whale behavior and the preservation of the world's oceans.

Deputy Ortolani became involved in the climb through his brother, Daniel Ortolani, who is a professional guide, and co-leader of the expedition. Dan Ortolani is a teacher at Grenville Christian College. Art has done some minor climbing in the past and has accompanied his brother on a number of wilderness trips in the past which have included extensive hiking and some climbing. Art also participates in the Florida Police Olympics and in the International Police Olympics.

"I'm doing this for all the kids who will have the opportunity for a good education with the scholarships we'll be funding," Art Ortolani said. "I've always done crazy things - I love the challenge of doing things I've never done before. I think it is going to be great fun, for a great cause," he said.

Ortolani suggested the climb to Dispatch Supervisor Debbie Shepherd,



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who used to climb mountains as a hobby. She attended an Outward Bound Course in Colorado when she was 20 years old, and became so enamored with the outdoor activities in the course, that she began climbing regularly. In addition to climbing, she was also an avid runner. She ran, and climbed for six years until 1988, when she suffered an injury during a climb in the Chugach Mountain Range in Alaska. She was traversing the range with a group of nine people when the accident happened.

"It was such a beautiful day that several of us in the group decided to hike up a peak to get a better look at Mount McKinley. All it took was a slip of the foot and suddenly I was falling. I slid down the slope about 450 feet and tore a tendon in my left knee. I finished the climb with the injured knee, and had surgery a week after my return home," Shepherd said. Unfortunately, the knee became infected, effectively stopping all future physical activity.

"After being so active, it was really

## Tramel is new task force coordinator

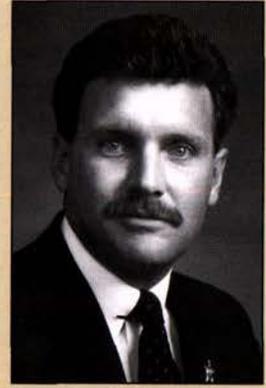
Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice recently named Tom Tramel as his new director of the Florida Sheriff's Task Force.

Prior to this appointment, Tramel was sheriff of Columbia County from 1984 through early 1997, when he was defeated by Frank Owens, the then police chief of Lake City.

As director of the task force, Tramel manages the day-to-day task force operations, including implementation of the Florida Sheriff's Computer Network, commonly called "FLASH," and he will continue to coordinate our efforts on bringing deadbeat parents to justice; effecting statewide narcotics operations and the many other challenges faced by the task force.

"We were fortunate to be able to secure Tom Tramel for this important position," noted Sheriff Rice, "when he was sheriff, he played a major role in bringing the task force to where we are today," he said.

Since his appointment, Tramel has put thousands of miles on his car driving across the state in promotion of the "statewide mentality" that the task force requires, if it is to be successful.



tough to not be able to use my leg at all. At the time of the accident, I was in training for the New York Marathon. That effort, and all my future climbing plans, went out the window," Shepherd said.

Since then, she has undergone 27 surgeries to remove damaged cartilage and ligaments. Finally, in November, she had successful knee replacement

surgery at Fishermen's Hospital by Dr. George Botelho, an orthopedic surgeon on staff at Mariner's and Fishermen's Hospitals.

"My doctor, Dr. Botelho, says my recovery so far has been remarkable. He has cleared me to go on the expedition, and I'm beginning to train now," Shepherd said. "I am just so thrilled to

*continued on page 8*

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*Sprint salutes the Florida Sheriffs Association!*



*continued from page 7*

be able to do this again. I've had doctors tell me I'd lose my leg, and others who told me I'd never walk again - and here I am planning to climb a mountain!"

The expedition will depart from Grenville Christian College on August 1st and will complete the trip August 11th with a victory dinner in Iqaluit, Ottawa. The trek to the Baffin Islands alone is a major undertaking, involving several short flights, and a boat trip over rough and often icy water. A number of professional climbers will be accompanying the group, including Richard Bass of Dallas, Texas, who climbed Mount Everest in 1986, and is the author of a book called "The Seven Summits."

The group has the blessing of the Canadian Government, who has agreed to name the previously un-conquered peaks after members of the expedition. They will have a satellite phone to communicate with the outside world in case of an emergency. They will also have a lap top computer and will be able to send out information and photos via satellite.

**Good luck!**

## DISCONNECT VEHICLE BATTERIES SAFELY

Have you ever arrived at a crash scene and had something unexpected happen to you while securing a vehicle? Does your training lead you to believe that disconnecting the negative cable on a battery removes all power from a vehicle? A simple check may prove you wrong and could protect you from injury!

An early result from fire safety research being conducted under a settlement agreement between General Motors Corporation (GM) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

has identified important information that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) believes may be extremely valuable to initial responders, but may easily be overlooked.

During a recent crash test conducted by GM, simulating an impact by one vehicle to the left front corner of another vehicle, with a closing speed of 65 mph, an interesting and unexpected result occurred. After the vehicle came to rest, the fire department approached the vehicle to inspect for post-collision fire. Fire officials noted that the battery had broken open and smoke was rising from the battery. The fire officials disconnected the negative battery cable, and thought that the vehicle was secured - that the vehicle's electrical system was no longer receiving power from the battery.

Several minutes later, however, an observer noticed that the vehicle's tail lights appeared to be "on." Since the test was being conducted outdoors, it was first assumed that this was merely a reflection from the sunlight. It turned out, however, that the tail lights indeed were still "on." The fire department was asked how this could be possible when the vehicle's battery had been disconnected.

A careful post-collision "tear-down" revealed that a sheet-metal screw in the vehicle's power distribution box had penetrated the side of the battery during the collision, creating a circuit for the electricity to flow. Even though the battery was securely damaged during the crash and three of its six internal cells had lost battery acid, the battery still generated approximately 7.5 volts. The power and heat generated by the electrical current flowing through this un-fused circuit were sufficient to light the vehicle's tail lights and to start a fire in the vehicle.

The message to initial responders is that a simple inspection of a vehicle during the "securing" procedure should include a check for anything out of the ordinary. **Is the vehicle's electrical system still receiving power even**

**through the battery has been disconnected? (Radio on? Dome light? Wipers? Outside lights? Blower motor?)** All of these should be "off" if the battery is no longer connected.

**If there is any evidence that power from the battery is still running any part of the electrical system, check that the negative cable has been disconnected from the battery. Then, carefully disconnect the positive cable at the battery. Use care not to touch any metal part of the chassis with the cable or your tools, to minimize the risk of creating a spark. Check the electrical system again to make sure it is not receiving power.**

Taking these precautions is especially important for initial responders during extrication of victims in air bag equipped vehicles when the air bags have not deployed. Although most frontal crashes that are severe enough to break open a battery (such as occurred in this crash test) are also severe enough to deploy an air bag, all precautions should be taken to ensure that an air bag does not deploy during extrication.

Because the results of this crash test were unexpected, NHTSA would like to receive information from initial responders about similar situations they may have experienced. In particular, the agency would be interested in receiving information about fires, shock hazards or similar occurrences involving vehicles that were believed to be safely secured, as well as information about experiences of initial responders with hard-to-reach batteries.

If you have information, please contact Mr. Carl Ragland at NHTSA by calling (202)366-4728, or through the Internet at e-mail address:

CARL.RAGLAND@NHTSA.DOT.GOV

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