Montana Department of Justice

MVD

Motor Vehicle Division
Safety • Efficiency • Dependability

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DATE: April 20, 2012
TO: Montana Insurance Providers
FROM: Brenda Nordlund, Administrator
SUBJECT: Montana Highway Patrol Access to MTIVS Begins May 21st

Starting May 21, 2012, the Montana Highway Patrol will begin using the Montana Insurance Verification System (MTIVS) web service to electronically verify proof of vehicle liability insurance during traffic stops. Use of the web service will assist troopers and motorists in situations where drivers either can't find their proof of insurance card or have an expired card. The web service will also give troopers the ability to confirm the validity of a proof of insurance card based on the response received from the issuing insurance company. Troopers may also use MTIVS to electronically verify that liability insurance was in effect at the time of an accident.

Highway Patrol troopers, like officers from other law enforcement agencies, have the discretion to make enforcement decisions, such as whether to issue a citation or warning, or neither, based on information gathered during a traffic stop or accident investigation. The new MTIVS service will not alter that use of officer discretion – it will simply allow troopers to base their decisions on reliable insurance information.

Insurance verification capabilities will be extended to other Montana law enforcement agencies and local courts later this summer.

The ultimate goal of this system is to reduce the number of drivers in Montana who do not carry liability insurance as required by Montana law. As we move forward with integrating MTIVS into the Highway Patrol, I want to thank you for your support and cooperation. Uninsured drivers are a serious problem, undermining traffic safety and driving up the costs for insured, law-abiding motorists. Real-time insurance verification will make the roads safer for everyone.

If you have questions about MTIVS or law enforcement's use of the new system, please send your questions to support@mtivs.com.