

2011 Mock Crash – Presented by Freeman’s Leadership Class

On April 20, 2011, the Leadership Class at Freeman High School put on a program designed to open the eyes of students and staff to a serious problem – driving while distracted. Distractions come in many forms – driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, texting while driving, playing with the stereo, being on a cell phone, and many other possibilities. Too many lives are lost and affected due to this senseless situation. The Leadership class, under the direction of their teacher Scott Moore, took on the monumental task of bringing this to the forefront. Under the guidance of parent Paul Fuchs, who himself lost his sister to a drunk driver 15 years ago, the class took on this project. The day began with a short assembly with speeches by Mr. Fuchs, Mr. Moore and Police Officer Craig Chamberlin. At the end of the assembly a 911 call was played over the intercom stating that there was an accident in front of the school. The student body was taken outside to a staged accident scene involving two vehicles. Two school buses “hid” the scene, and when the buses departed, the action began. Students from the Leadership class served as actors and actresses. Soon after the accident, volunteer medics and firemen and women (from Fire Districts 8 and 11) arrived at the scene, sirens blaring and lights ablaze. Following soon after were sheriffs Craig Chamberlin and Ron Nye. The scene continued to unfold with mayhem everywhere. Unfortunately one of the youths in the accident had passed away (staged), and soon after, the coroner from Hazen and Jaeger in Spokane Valley arrived to perform their duty. To everyone’s surprise, Medstar circled above and landed in the new parking lot – a second accident victim was to be transported to the hospital.

After the accident scene unfolded, a new phase began. The student body was directed into the high school multi-purpose room where a memorial service was held. In the mock crash, two of our students ended up deceased. The service began with a ten minute PowerPoint presentation celebrating the lives of these two young men. The service, under the direction of Hazen and Jaeger, continued with eulogies being read by the Smith and Dresback families prior to the casket and urn being taken to the hearse. The student body was then directed into the new gym. Here a court was set up with former Judge Harvey Dunham sentencing the young man who was found guilty of drunken driving. The program concluded with speeches by many of the people involved, including the Leadership class actors, Medstar, Volunteer firemen, Hazen and Jaeger, Mr. Fuchs, Mr. Moore and Principal David Smith. The final speaker was a mom who had recently lost her high school senior daughter in an alcohol-related accident. The entire student body was extremely moved by the morning-long assembly. You could hear a pin being dropped when speeches were given. The only audible sounds were sniffles from the emotional students.

Driving while being distracted is a serious situation – one that we have all heard about many times. We are hoping that this assembly hit home and that people will think twice when they are behind the wheel of an automobile. A huge thank you goes out to all those involved and to our wonderful student body for taking this seriously.