



Care For Crash Victims -- Dec. 2013 - Vol. 1, No. 12 -- ISSN 2332-063X

Rollover Crash Victims Suffer Decades of Deadly Influences

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Dear Care for Crash Victims Community Members:

The decades of deaths, disabilities, and deceptions have subjected Americans to enormous tragedy. Since 1978, rollover crashes in the U.S. have resulted in more than 350,000 deaths. In addition, many more countless serious injuries including amputations, brain, and spinal cord injuries have resulted with devastating consequences.

One excellent investigative program FRONTLINE report on TV was recently called to my attention by one of Ralph Nader's colleagues. Disclosure: While I was at NHTSA, I inexplicably missed seeing this 2002 program. But I was aware of many of the people interviewed and much of the substance of the story.

As you watch, note well the interviews of the public servants and the corporate servants -- both in and out of government. When these folk go through the NHTSA Revolving Door their income source may change but their spots usually don't change. This is why NHTSA (and other regulatory agencies) to this day is so ineffective at protecting people. The money and power is not in the hands of public servants.

Keep in mind that just since 2002, more than 115,000 Americans died of rollover crash injuries (in all vehicle types not just SUV's). SUV deaths are approaching 30,000 since 2002. And year in year out about 68% of these rollover crash deaths are not taken to any facility for emergency medical care. NHTSA Rollover statistics, by year and by State, are at www.careforcrashvictims.com click on "Killed in U.S. Crashes, 1978 – 2011".

Please watch this significant, accurate, and revealing FRONTLINE video program and its documentation "Rollover: The Hidden History of the SUV".

See it at <https://vimeo.com/59514384>

Associated historical documentation of “Deadly Influences” on the politics of auto safety is at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rollover/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rollover/unsafe/>

The FRONTLINE program may be forgiven for one wrong estimate.

*“There will be an estimated **70,000** SUV rollovers in 2002, in which it's estimated **2000** people will die.”*

The grim reality turned out to be 2,471 SUV rollover crash deaths in 2002. See

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rollover/etc/before.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rollover/interviews/>

Nixon’s words of April 27, 1971 in an Oval Office meeting with Henry Ford II and Lee Iacocca President of Ford Motor Co.:

“It's true in, in the environmentalists and it's true of the consumerism people. They're a group of people that aren't one really damn bit interested in safety or clean air. What they're interested in is destroying the system. They're enemies of the system. So, what I'm trying to say is this: that you can speak to me in terms that I am for the system. ...”

See

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rollover/nixon/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rollover/talk/>

UPDATE: News as of Nov. 12, 2013 reports that a 2002 Ford Explorer was involved in a fatal rollover crash.

“Jeanette Montes, 19, of Paso Robles, died at the scene of the incident due to major head trauma, the CHP reported.... All three were wearing seat belts and investigators do not suspect alcohol or impaired driving to be have contributed to the accident, the CHP reported.”

See: http://www.pasoroblespress.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=9826

Since 2001, NHTSA has recorded the following number of SUV Rollover fatalities:

In 2002 there were 2,471 SUV Rollover crash deaths.

2003	2,661
2004	2,929
2005	2,895
2006	2,899
2007	2,861
2008	2,435
2009	2,303
2010	2,264
2011	2,168
2012	~2,000
2013	~2,000
Total	~29,886*

* NHTSA has not yet published figures for the years 2012 and 2013. I have estimated 2,000 for each of these two years. The decline in the years following 2007, in part, is attributable to effects of the Great Recession. As always, NHTSA's statistics are dry. No tears.

As I wrote in my Report last month, I think we citizens have to provide the stories to make real and lasting change for the better.

See <http://www.careforcrashvictims.com/condolences.php>

Yes, we can, and we must.