



**Remarks for RADM Chris Buchanan
2018 Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Workshop
April 18, 2018 | 9:00 am | Rockville, Maryland**

Remarks as prepared

Good morning, thank you for being here today. I'm happy to be here to speak with all of you and to recognize the important work that you do.

Let me begin by thanking you all for making time to attend this important meeting. I would like to extend my thanks to Captain **Nancy Bill**, Principal Injury Prevention Program Consultant for her work and for bringing this group together.

Unintentional injuries have posed a significant challenge for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. According to the CDC, injury is the leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native people ages 1 to 54. Compared to other ethnicities, AI/ANs have the highest injury-related deaths from motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian events, and suicide. Like chronic and infectious disease, injuries can be prevented. That's why I believe you have one of the most important jobs in your communities.

As you know, the injury prevention program is the lead IHS program that addresses the injury disparities in American Indian and Alaska Native

communities. In 2017, we welcomed nine new Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement sites. That brings our total to 32 funded sites. I look forward to the opportunities the rest of 2018 will bring the program.

The program's approach is based on the same public health principles used to effectively control infectious diseases. By using this approach and focusing on the implementation of evidence-based injury prevention strategies while also addressing injury disparities, we will continue to have a significant impact in our communities.

I'm impressed with the community-specific solutions your programs are leading in your communities, such as:

- Coordinating training for child passenger safety and fall prevention for tribes in the Albuquerque IHS Area. This includes outreach to schools and tribal law enforcement.
- Increasing occupant restraints and reducing drinking and driving DUIs in the Blackfeet Nation
- Educating students and observing teens as they drive in Choctaw Nation so young people can make safer decisions behind the wheel
- Reducing injuries resulting from falls by the elderly and implementing a Tai Chi exercise class for high risk elders at the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Educating skaters about the importance of wearing a helmet at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's new skateboard park
- And educating parents and caregivers through the White Earth Public Health Services Child Passenger Safety program. They're using interactive

hands on instruction on the proper usage of child restraints and seat belt systems.

These are just a few of the numerous programs out there.

Your work is unique because you are implementing culturally appropriate effective strategies in your communities. Captain Bill is always sharing the activities going on across the nation and we enjoy hearing about them. Your work also influences tribal policy in keeping injury prevention as a priority.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with all of you. I know you will have an informative and productive meeting.

Before I go, I'd like to recognize Captain Bill one more time. As many of you know, she will retire after an impressive 30-years of service. Her retirement date is June first. Thank you, for your dedication to the IHS and to the injury prevention program. We greatly appreciate your service.

At IHS, we are extremely proud of the commitment and success of the teams working to improve the program and prevent injuries. I look forward to hearing more about the discussions you will have during this meeting. Thank you.