



From the Desk of

CAPTAIN JASON KOWALSKI #498

Missoula County Detention Facility

2340 Mullan Road, Missoula MT 59808
258-4000, FAX 258-4080
E-mail to jkowalsk@co.missoula.mt.us

TO: PIO JASON JOHNSON
SUBJECT: SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND RESPONSE
DATE: FEBRUARY 7TH, 2013
CC:

On February 5th, Detention Officer Steven Roney was escorting an inmate from court back to his Housing Pod within the Missoula County Detention Facility. Officer Pamela Blendermann was already within the Housing Pod conducting routine inmate welfare checks. Officer Roney and the inmate entered the Unit and Roney removed the subject's hand and leg restraints. As soon as the inmate was free from restraints he quickly ran up the upper level stairs and began to climb over the railing. Officer's Roney and Blendermann quickly assessed the situation and identified it as an attempt by the inmate to jump off the railing to what would likely be serious injury or potential death. Roney led Blendermann quickly up the stairs to intervene while both officers yelled orders for the inmate to stop. The inmate was intent on jumping and just as he cleared the railing, Officer Roney got a grip hold of the inmate's pant waistband. The inmate let go of the railing and began to fall. Officer Roney was able to swing the inmate back against the railing and started to ease him down to the ground. Officer Blendermann went down to floor level to get a hold of the inmate. The momentum of grabbing the inmate was enough to pull Officer Roney over the railing. In what can only be described as an acrobatic maneuver, Roney let go of the inmate at the last second and swung himself in a cartwheel type flip over the railing and onto the floor to his feet. The inmate fell to the floor from an approximate height of 1 foot without causing any injury. Both officers then secured the inmate and placed him back in his cell with the help of other responding officers. These officer's actions prevented a tragedy and likely saved a life.