



Regularly, we ask people, “Would you rather have a heart attack in Billings or on the Hi-Line?” The response is unequivocally -- “*Billings.*” Their response is unfortunate, but understandable.

### Why?

People living in rural and frontier areas face emergency response challenges that their urban counterparts do not: travel across vast distances to get to a facility for help, less sophisticated diagnostic & treatment equipment once they arrive, reliance on volunteers for transport, reduced access to training for EMS and hospital providers, and, most importantly, lack of sufficient funding. Training, despite its importance, often falls to the bottom of financial priorities when the budget is tight.

And yet, it shouldn't matter whether someone lives on the Hi-Line, in Billings, or on Crow Agency when they face a critical healthcare event; *every Montanan* should feel confident that their providers know how to stabilize and/or to provide treatment in these high-consequence situations.

But they don't.

### SIM-MT's Solution

Founded in 2015 with the help of Helmsley Charitable Trust, SIM-MT's mission is to help fix this problem by bringing quality simulation training to the front door of every single facility, helping to even the odds, reduce medical errors, and improve patient outcomes -- no matter where people live.

SIM-MT works primarily with rural & frontier emergency response agencies and hospitals to train best practice methodology for trauma, cardiac & stroke response, and other critical events where time is of the essence. Inside our three simulation semi trucks, we design and run life-like rehearsals for these scenarios, using “high fidelity” manikins that are as realistic as possible -- they breathe, they have heartbeats and pulses, their eyes open and close, they talk and, in the case of the infant and pediatric manikins, they cry tears.



“Excellent training. The best SIM training I have ever seen. Love that you tailored SIMS to our needs and mission.” - Chuck C; Flathead County Sheriff

Within minutes, participants in the training forget it is a simulation. By practicing with their team in this safe simulation environment where the stakes are lower but the scenario is real, healthcare personnel encounter situations they rarely see, sharpening skills and learning best practices without a patient's life hanging in the balance.

These situations and simulations are replicable, which means they can be repeatedly practiced, enhancing the skills of medical professionals. In addition, simulation education is proven to be highly successful in:

- Reducing preventable medical errors (the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death in the United States)
- Preparing healthcare teams for high-consequence care
- Improving patient outcomes
- Identifying latent safety threats for patients

#### How do facilities fund the trainings?

Rural facilities all across Montana are interested in simulation training but struggle to find funding to pay for the service. By working with philanthropic donors, foundations, corporate partners, and private grant sources, SIM-MT helps to connect facilities that desire simulation training with the necessary funding. In short, it's a community effort with many people doing their part to bring high fidelity simulation training to every facility in the state.

For more information and to find out how you can help, visit: [www.simmt.org](http://www.simmt.org)



**“This was the best, most real life training I’ve done this year. I love this class. I would do this every month if I could.” - Tracy N; Big Fork Fire Department**