



VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

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Illinois State Representative Tom Cross, Plainfield Police and Fire Protection District, AAA, Dorel and IDOT Urge Parents and Caregivers to Have Their Child Safety Seats Inspected

Plainfield, IL – Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 3 to 6 and 8 to 14. That is why Illinois State Representative Tom Cross, Plainfield Police Department, Plainfield Fire Protection District are urging parents and caregivers to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed on “National Seat Check Saturday,” September 25th. As part of Child Passenger Safety Week (September 19-25, 2010), Plainfield will have certified technicians available to provide free hands-on child safety seat inspections and advice from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Meijer, 13521 S. Route 59. This event will be sponsored by Illinois State Representative Tom Cross, AAA, Dorel, and the Illinois Department of Transportation’s Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS).

“It is the responsibility of every parent and caregiver to ensure their children are safely restrained – every trip, every time,” said Officer Jason Kopek, “We are urging everyone to have their child safety seats inspected. When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes.”

Research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8. From 1975 to 2008, 8,959 lives have been saved by the proper use of child restraints according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2008, among children under age 5 in passenger vehicles, an estimated 244 lives were saved by child restraint use (child safety seats and adult seat belts).

“The safety of our children is at stake every time we strap them in their seats in our cars,” said Rep. Cross. “Stopping by this free event will only take a few minutes and will give you the piece of mind that your child is safe.”



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For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers can visit their local inspection stations and refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines that determine which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
3. In Illinois, by law, once children outgrow their forward-facing child safety seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they must ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the age of 8. All children should ride properly restrained in the back seat.
4. Children are not ready for a safety belt until they are 4'9" tall and over the age of 8. They can use the adult safety belts in the back seat, if they fit properly. Safety belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

Safety belts are required in all seating positions in all cars, light trucks and vans. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to ride in the bed of a pickup truck.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week and to find the child seat inspection station nearest you visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS> , <http://www.facebook.com/childpassengersafety> or www.buckleupillinois.org.

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Is your child's safety seat properly installed?

Securing your children properly in age- and size-appropriate child safety seats — in the back seat of your vehicle — is the most effective thing you can do to protect them in the event of a crash. In fact, in motor vehicle crashes, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers.

Among child passengers under age 5, child restraints saved the lives of an estimated 244 children in 2008 alone. From 1975 through 2008, restraints (child safety seats or adult seat belts) are credited with saving the lives of 8,959 children.

Because child safety seats do save lives, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws requiring their use. Even so, motor vehicle traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death for children age 3 and older. In Illinois, all children must be properly restrained in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat until at least age 8.

The good news is that a majority of parents buckle up their children in child safety seats, booster seats, or safety belts. Still, according to the U.S Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly 3 out of 4 child safety seats are not used properly.

That's where NHTSA's Child Passenger Safety Week can help. This annual campaign, which runs this year from September 19-25, focuses on increasing awareness of these issues and provides parents and caregivers with resources and information to better protect children from motor vehicle crashes.

For a child safety seat to do its job right, it has to be:

- Appropriate for your child's age and size;
- Installed properly in your vehicle; and
- Adjusted to fit your child securely.

The week's activities wrap up on September 25th with its signature event: National Seat Check Saturday. At a child safety seat check, certified child passenger safety technicians will inspect your child's safety seat — and provide hands-on advice and instruction for proper installation. AAA, Dorel and the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety are sponsoring over 70 events in Illinois this year. So, even if you have previously had your child's seat inspected, it never hurts to have it checked again! If you cannot make it to one of these events, take advantage of free local safety seat checks available year round. You can find free inspection sites online at www.nhtsa.gov or by phone through the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Remember: All child passengers under age 13 should ride securely restrained in the back seat, where they are safest — every trip, every time.

Safety belts are required in all seating positions in all cars, light trucks and vans. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to ride in the bed of a pickup truck.

*To learn more about child passenger safety and 2010 Child Passenger Safety Week events in your area, please visit www.buckleupillinois.org or www.nhtsa.gov.