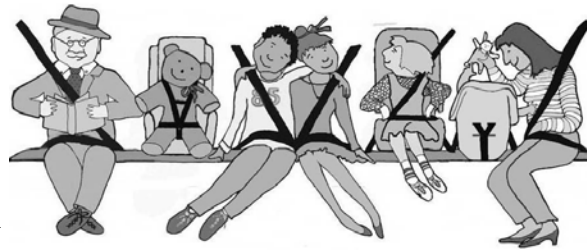


SafetyBeltSafe News



Volume XXIV, No. 1

January, 2003

What Can YOU Do to Keep the Safe Ride Helpline National?

The most available ongoing program of SBS USA is our Helpline, which serves the public and professionals with personalized attention for their inquiries. By toll-free telephone line, mail, and e-mail, specific queries come our way. Sometimes a newly pregnant couple wants every detail to plan for their first arrival or a family with a child for each safety belt wants to know how to fit them in safely.

Newspaper, book, magazine, radio/TV, and Internet representatives come to SBS USA for details, statistics, reviews of drawings and content, yet often do not note that we were their resource. Because of our long tenure, we are a source of historical information. Our technical expertise has been recognized widely, so the inquiries of attorneys, corporate staffers, legislators, and program managers often lead to memberships to help keep informed to meet future needs.

Your memberships are a critical support for the Helpline as is your willingness to share what you learn with others. If your employer makes matching gifts when you donate to a non-profit, please send the matching funds form to our organization as well. Members **William and Linda Jones** of Goshen, IN regularly provide a double gift in this way. Other funding sources are our brochures, curricula, and promotional items, such as shirts, signs, mugs, license frames, bumper stickers, and posters.

In recent years, **Michael Sachs, MD**, a pediatrician who serves on our Advisory Board, has commissioned

holiday cards from SBS USA to announce a donation to us to honor his friends and colleagues.

We invite you to consider that approach if you, too, plan to make a gift on behalf of your friends and family. Another important form of recognition is to make a gift in the memory of a special person who cared about children and their wellbeing.

Two of the banks where we have placed endowment funds have special programs through which deposits from supporters of our organization who mention their relationship generate additions to the donations these banks make to our organization each year. For instance, if a supporter of SBS USA mentions our name or code number when opening a savings account, the bank will "credit" that deposit when calculating the percentage of the funds in the bank that are used to determine their annual gift to us. SBS USA is *not* provided the information about who or how much is behind the gift so no one's privacy is breached.

Our long-term supporter is **Hawthorne Savings Bank**. Their toll-free number is 888/TRUE411 for rate information about savings, and our code is #4020. A newer supporter is **Fremont Investment & Loan**; their toll-free number is 800/Fremont. Our code for deposits there is #387. These gifts add to the variety of donations, memberships, contracts, grants, and corporate sponsorships that enable our programs to go forward. We thank all who have contributed to our first 23 years. For more details on any of these approaches, call the office.

New Grant from California Office Traffic Safety Begins

Safe Ride Helpline services for Californians will receive support from a grant from CA OTS through LA County Department of Health Services. The grant authorizes up to \$106,000 over the next 21 months to provide counseling to parents and professionals on the best way to transport children in motor vehicles. This needed funding will help to keep the Helpline English and Spanish toll-free numbers active.

CALENDAR

CONFERENCE

***3/9-11, 2003:** Lifesavers, 2003, Chicago. Details about registration, deadlines, etc. are available at www.lifesaversconference.org
Visit the SBS USA exhibit booth!

Safety Seat Checkup Day

***4/5:** Petersen Automotive Museum, 10 am to 2 pm:
11 am Ceremony to honor the SafetyBelt/Seat Saved and Guest Samantha Babcock, whose daughter died unrestrained, to speak about the consequences of not buckling up a child in a motor vehicle

SAFETY SEAT CHECKUPS

Call SBS USA to register

Trained checkers are needed!

***2/28:** Clinica Msr. Oscar Romero
***4/5:** Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles
***5/17:** sites nationwide TBA for State Farm Insurance checkups

THANK YOU

\$5000

California State Automobile Assn.

\$3250

American Honda Motor Co.

\$3000

Health Net

\$600

Car-safety.org

\$500

Carolyn Stumpf

\$250

Sulmeyer, Kupetz, Bauman & Rothman

\$200

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Linda Jones & Tompkins Corp Fndn
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Primary Children's Medical Center
Riley Children's Hospital

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Liability Insurance for CPS Professionals

NHTSA Warns About Contamination

The withdrawal by American Automobile Assn of a professional liability package for individual Technicians and Technician-Instructors has raised dilemmas for many who work independently to assist families. The low-cost coverage of first \$1 million and later \$500,000 in liability coverage gave peace of mind to those who were not shielded as public employees or covered as SAFE KIDS volunteers.

The program ended not because of any claims but due to the costs of obtaining reinsurance. Although many independents found the plan a boon, there were not enough of them to maintain the program economically.

Professional liability insurance for non-profit entities can be obtained through Nonprofits' Insurance Alliance of California, for instance. However, it covers employees and volunteers, not independent contractors. *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. welcomes reports of other sources for this coverage and will share news on this front as it becomes available.

A Consumer Advisory was released to warn families to keep recessed buckles clean and to check that all buckles are tightly secured. These recommendations also apply to checkups. It is essential to give the harness a firm tug to assure that the buckle is engaged.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) investigated Cosco (Dorel) products with recessed buckles that either were too hard to release or produced "false latching" (i.e. the buckle tongue appears to be latched and may even "click" but the tongue can be pulled out of the buckle without using the release button). Fourteen seats from various manufacturers exhibited false latching, and there were 1001 allegations of difficulties with latching or unlatching, including false latching. No recall has been announced.

It is important to warn parents that feeding children in safety seats can cause buckle problems due to spills. It is essential to keep buckles clean. Solvents, such as WD 40, must not be used. Buckles can be cleaned with a moistened cotton swab or soapy water.

Utah Safety Belt Law Under Attack

What began as a word change to clarify Utah's safety belt law has turned into a can of worms, as Rep. Chad Bennion of Murray has added an amendment to remove safety belt use requirements for *anyone* over the age of 18. Bennion calls the current safety belt law "unnecessary."

I want to help *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. save children's lives.

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*The New Year is here!
If there's no "03" on your label, it's time
to join for 2003!*

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RESEARCH

Dr. Ted Miller, Director, Children's Safety Network, based in Maryland, is researching the cost savings from prevention as well as cost outcomes, described as the actual cost, once the financial savings are realized. The idea behind his research is to expose the actual impact of injuries in contrast to the costs to prevent them. Effects on quality of life are included as well as payments for hospitalization, rehabilitation, insurance, tax, and employee losses.

Miller is considering in detail the actual costs of a safety seat checkup per family. This critical analysis will highlight the costly individual attention, the valuable professional education, and the reduced injury benefit.

Based on initial assessment, Dr. Miller reports that each \$65 checkup saves more than \$1400 in medical, insurance, tax, lost work time, and reduced quality of life costs. A \$49 safety seat likewise makes a huge saving for the community.

For help in obtaining figures like these to bolster grant applications for injury prevention, contact the Children's Safety Network by e-mail at sheppard@pire.org or telephone at 301-755-2728.

Dr. Craig Anderson of Health Policy and Research at UC Irvine has reported on a study of participants in the violator education program developed by SBS USA in 1991, Family Safety in the Car, as contrasted with other violators of the child restraint law who did not attend the class.

After tabulating the choices of safety seats and the numbers of errors made by the two groups of parents,

the research team found that the class "graduates" had chosen appropriately 99% of the time compared with 88% for non-participants. Those who attended the class had significantly fewer errors per seat. The findings are significant and point to the importance of education and seat evaluation.

SBS USA data show that 80% of the safety seats brought to violator classes are inappropriate or need adjustments. Instructors find that they can reduce these problems for 60% before they leave class; only 20% need to replace the seat entirely and then return for evaluation of the replacement.

These data are part of the basis for California law requiring judges to refer violators to a class that includes inspection of the safety seat if they reduce the fine for a safety seat violation. The goal is not only to motivate parents to protect their children but also to see that the safety seats in use are appropriate, not on recall, too old, damaged, or with incorrectly threaded harness systems.

Health Net of California believes that safety is in everyone's best interest. As a health plan dedicated to wellness and prevention, we are pleased to support the community services of *SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.*