

# SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 26, No. 6



November 2005

## Parents Must Take Responsibility to Protect Kids Who Fly

The August, 2005 announcement from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that kids under 2 will be permitted to fly as lap children continues to be based on erroneous analysis of data which alleges that more children will die if federal regulation requires proper restraint of the little ones on board.

Despite a careful study (See *SBS News*, 9/04) by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) staff which showed that there were no "excess deaths" of children during the three periods of the greatest downturns in aviation travel in U S history, the FAA continued to contrast risks on the road with flight time, as if virtually every flight did not include at least two associated auto trips.

With safety seats in baggage useless in emergencies, including clear-air turbulence, and subject to damage and being lost en route, it is likely that some children end up riding without safety seats for one or more legs of their travels.

Although National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) supported the FAA position, NTSB Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker noted, "While the FAA's new position may provide more options for the voluntary use of safety seats, we continue to believe that infants and young children deserve the same protection that is provided to other aircraft passengers. During takeoff, landing, and turbulence, adults are required to be buckled up, baggage and coffee pots are stowed, computers are turned off and put away, yet infants and toddlers need not be restrained. This is an unnecessary risk to our children."

*SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. and the Association of Flight Attendants concur.

## Statistics Make Convincing Argument

Although the personal story helps grab attention, the necessary numbers fuel change. Chris Sherwood (*see p. 4*) was quoted at Msnbc.com saying children in safety seats are four times less likely to be injured in side impacts when riding rear-facing than riding forward-facing, based on preliminary data.

With these data, other national organizations might consider recommending 18-24 months for rear facing. This is important because many child-oriented professionals pick up on recommendations introduced years earlier as preliminary steps toward greater protection for children. Recently, a child passenger safety (CPS) advocate in California visited a pediatrician and was given a form that recommended forward facing at 1 year and 20 lbs., followed by the verbal assertion that "kids hate riding rear facing." It's hard for patients to educate caregivers so it helps when professional organizations give them a hand.

A finding from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) reported at WebMD is a wake-up call for vehicle designers and regulators. Their studies compare injury outcomes for restrained adults and kids in vehicles made 1990-1993 vs. 1998-2004. Due to improved protection, there was a 25% reduction in injury for drivers in newer cars but for kids in these vehicles, there was no change. Researcher Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, of CHOP challenged the industry to upgrade protection in the back. [The back seat is still safer than the front.]

A study of lives saved by improved safety equipment in cars was conducted by C J Kahane for NHTSA and reported in *Status Report*, 8/6/05. The safety belt is estimated to have saved 168,542 lives, 51% of those saved from 1960-2002, and by the last year studied, saved 14,570 or 59% of the total lives saved.

## Winter Warning!

Winter is quickly approaching, and with winter comes lots of snow for many areas. Mike Donohoe, retired CPS Tech and AAA staffer, reported on a risk some of us may not perceive.

A driver with a child on board struck a telephone pole, causing wires to fall on the car. The driver leaped out of the car and reached in to pull the child out. As luck had it, nothing untoward happened because the wires were for telephone and cable TV. Had they been electrical wires, leaping out of the car would have electrocuted the driver, and anyone reaching in to remove the child would have suffered the same fate while electrocuting the child.

In this instance, the electrical wires fell on the car later, sending out a shower of sparks. The best advice is to *stay in the car* until the power company can insure that power to the fallen wires is shut off. Crawl back to the child inside the car to check out the situation and provide comfort.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.  
 Office: 1124 W. Carson St.  
 LA BioMed,  
 Building B-1 West  
 Torrance, CA 90502  
 (310)222-6860 - English  
 (310)222-6862 - Spanish  
 (800)745-SAFE  
 (800)747-SANO  
 FAX: (310)222-6862  
 Web site: [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)  
 Mail: Box 553  
 Altadena, CA 91003  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
 Stephanie M. Tombrello, L.C.S.W.  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**  
 Kellie L. Mzik

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
*from everyone at*  
**SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.!**

## THANK YOU

- \$7,333 - Ohio (2006 membership)
- \$3,440 - CSK Auto, Inc.  
for safety seats
- \$1,500 American Honda Motor Co.
- \$1,000 California State Automobile Association
- \$250 Kate Bernacki
- Annette DiPirro
- \$200 AR Children's Hospital
- Dynamic Research, Inc.
- \$125 ACTS-Oregon
- Susan Berres, OTR
- Cindy Humphry, RN, H Ed
- KS Parents As Teachers
- Maine Injury Prevention Services
- NV Office of Traffic Safety
- Barbara Potts, RN
- Safer New Mexico Now
- Sue Severin
- Karen Tessier, RN
- \$100 Dale E. Anstine PC
- Mary Louise Blackstone, ESQ
- Emilie Crown
- Mary Damiani
- Charlene Galston
- Kathleen Larsen
- SAFE KIDS Wyoming
- Winnemucca Police Dept

## Donations needed

Our office copier recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, and our office iMac computer is almost 6 years old. Both are showing their advanced age. Donations are needed to replace them. Please contact the office if you can help.

## Utah Tragedy

In September, eight students and one instructor from Utah State University were killed when the school-owned van in which they were riding blew a tire and rolled on I-84 in northern Utah. Two other passengers survived.

A Utah Highway Patrol officer at the scene told *Salt Lake Tribune* reporters that most, if not all of the victims, would have survived had they been using their safety belts. None of the 11 occupants were using safety belts, and all were ejected from the van.

Even so, one state senator doesn't expect this crash to spur any change to the UT safety belt law. For Senator Scott Jenkins, the debate over safety belts isn't whether or not one should wear safety restraints, but whether or not the government should require this.

Jenkins, of Plain City, Utah, called the crash "a tragedy like I have never seen before." But he is sticking to his stand on safety belts. Utah has only a secondary safety belt law for adults, in which drivers and occupants can be ticketed only if they are stopped for some other violation. State statute does allow for police to pull over and cite drivers under age 19 for failing to wear a safety belt; adult drivers transporting unrestrained passengers age 16 or younger also may face a ticket.

State Senator Karen Hale of Salt Lake City, supported by AAA of Utah, has been battling for three years to enact a primary safety belt law for the state, and she has vowed to continue that fight. During the 2005 legislative season, her measure was approved by the Senate but never made it to the floor of the House.

**You can help SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. save children's lives with your membership or donation.**

GROUP SUBSCRIPTION: \$500 Major Corp. \$200 Hospital \$100 Small Bus./Prof Grp \$50 Community Org.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$100 Contributing \$50 Supporting \$35 Basic

SPECIAL GIFT: \$5,000 Benefactor \$2,500 Patron \$1,000 Sustaining Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Org/Occup \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-mail address is required to receive passwords for access to Recall List and CPS Tech Update.

All memberships/subscriptions are for calendar year and include *SafetyBeltSafe News*.

\$200 or more automatically includes *Safe Ride News*.

**Check below** if you want to receive the following special subscriptions:

\$50 minimum: \_\_\_ Recall Update Service by e-mail \_\_\_ Recall Update Service by regular mail (if necessary)

\$100 minimum: \_\_\_ CPS Tech Update (online access to new instructions since September, 2005)

*Special for \$100 members: Add \$25 and receive Safe Ride News thru 2006 & latest CD of safety seat manufacturers' instructions!*

Payment: Check/Money Order (enclosed) \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (Visa or MC) # \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is a 501(c)(3) corporation*

Please mail this form to: *SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.*, Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003

*Federal Tax ID #95-3676040*

### **Indiana Gives Kids a Boost**

Indiana has, for many years, been home to the James Riley Children's Hospital Automotive Safety Program, nationally recognized source of most tested recommendations for children with special transportation needs. The current results show their valuable contribution to all Indiana children. With a newly revised CPS law and thorough education, the state has seen a climb for 4- to 7-year-olds from 9% safety seat use in '03 to 72% only 4 months after the higher age level became law. Of the remainder, fewer than 5% were unrestrained. Backless boosters, used by 46%, were most popular.

### **New National Legislation Aims to Protect Children Around Vehicles**

More than 190 children died this year as a result of being backed over by relatives or being exposed to extreme temperatures when they were left (or climbed in unnoticed) in a parked car. With leadership from Kids And Cars, Consumers Union, and families whose children died, the *Cameron Gulbransen Kids And Cars Safety Act of 2005* is being introduced by Senator Hillary Clinton (NY) and Congress member Peter King (NY).

The goal is to foster research and regulation on technical improvements to make such events less likely.

### **New Products**

**Peg Perego Primo Viaggio SIP** is a rear-facing-only seat for birth to 22 pounds. It has a foam insert for side impact protection (SIP) and may be used with or without base, unlike the previous model. Harness strap height is changed by pushing a button and moving a plate on the back of the seat up or down.

**Dorel Safety First Apex** is a combination seat used with the harness for 22 to 65 pounds or as a booster for 40 to 100 pounds. It has a front harness adjuster strap and adjustable headrest. Instructions state that the midpoint of the child's head cannot be above the top of the vehicle seatback.

**Evenflo Big Kid No-back** Booster is a backless booster for children 40 to 100 pounds.

### **Recall**

**Evenflo** has announced a recall for Tribute and Tribute 5 models beginning with #378 or #379 that were made 9/8/05 to 9/22/05. The plastic shell may crack in certain types of crashes when used rear facing. To receive a replacement safety seat, visit <http://www.tributecarseat.com> or call Evenflo at (800) 233-5921.

## 'Tis the Season for a Special Gift

Honor that special person or memory  
Send Holiday Cards

Nudged by Advisory Board member Michael Sachs, MD, who has made donations in lieu of gifts to his colleagues for years, SBS USA began providing Tribute and Holiday Cards to announce gifts to the Safe Ride Helpline in honor of the special people in your lives. For a small extra fee per card, we can send you a supply or even mail them directly to the people on your list. Meanwhile, the contributions help us serve more families and agencies with child passenger safety expertise.

Pick out a poster, curriculum, *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. polo shirt, mug, or buckle-up sign or license frame—and we'll send it for the holidays or for the New Year to someone who cares! To order holiday cards or other gifts, call the office or use one of the new links on our home page ([www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)).

## *CSK Auto Provides Funds for Safety Seats and Galaxy Fame for SBS USA*

It's hard to keep generosity a secret when SBS USA Executive Director Stephanie Tombrello and Kathy Clayton, 21-year volunteer for SBS USA, are asked to "take the field" at half-time.

CSK Auto District Manager Gerry Irwin presented \$3,440 to purchase safety seats for Los Angeles County families in need. The amount is linked to the number of goals scored by the champion L A Galaxy soccer team. Both volunteers and Safe Ride Helpline service users have mentioned seeing the presentation on the "big screen" at Home Depot Field in Carson.

To distribute the seats, SBS USA is partnering with sites which have personnel trained to provide education with the seat.

**Save The Date:** Plans are underway for Safety Seat Checkup Week April 23-29, 2006, with Petersen Automotive Museum secured as the site for the April 29 Safety Seat Checkup Day. As your 2006 calendars arrive, circle the date and watch this space for checker training schedules.

## Revised Tool Available Now

The 7/05 issue of *SBS News* reported a gift from Nissan North America which would enable updating of the CD of Manufacturers' Instructions with Summary Sheets created by SBS USA.

The team has completed the task—nearly 4000 pages comprised of instructions for 260 products, including 107 new or revised child restraints from 1996 through September, 2005. Each 1-to 3- page Summary Sheet has been revised and provides drawings, information on the production lifetime, and a consistently reported commentary on critical aspects of the products to be reviewed in the attached instructions. This commentary is a valuable component of each checkup and when counseling parents by phone or e-mail.

An individual CD, which is included in the SBS USA Membership packet for 2006 at the CPS Tech Special level and above, is \$10. For bulk orders or paper printouts, call SBS USA for details.

## Not Your Typical Mom!

Californian Elisabeth Thomas-Matej is a CPS Technician with a true bent for the technical and a mind for the engineering issues in vehicle safety. A persistent "social engineer," she finally achieved "institutionalization" of her CPS efforts as her daughter approached graduation from elementary school. She wrote. . .

"My daughter's school will be including a copy of the Five-Step Test\* in the fall, with the annual "first-day packet" sent home with each child. The PTA will handle the photocopying, annually, as part of the Site & Safety Committee's job. Site & Safety also will pay for booster posters and poster frames (to avoid loss of posters through overzealous bulletin board "clean up"). Further, the committee has bought the Shelness video, 'Don't Risk Your Child's Life,' which is now with the PTA parenting books, in the library.

I hope other techs can effect similar action at their local schools. Booster awareness in our town has been rising, in part because of the dedicated work of a single police officer."

*\*The SBS USA-originated technique to assess safety-belt readiness.*

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.  
P.O. Box 553  
Altadena, California 91003

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Van Nuys, CA  
Permit No. 987

*Renew your subscription to help promote  
a safe New Year!*

*SafetyBeltSafe News*

**November 2005**

## **Researchers Like the 5-Step Test**

It was gratifying to hear from a New Zealand physician working in Intensive Care at a children's hospital that the 5-Step Test was the best way to decide whether or not children ages 4 to 12 required use of a booster to ride correctly, an important aspect of the research she was conducting. It proved to be a very useful tool in this kind of research as it is the most direct and reliable way of assessing proper use. [The 5th step, which is key to parents, was omitted since the study was by observation.] We look forward to seeing the results of the study.

Meanwhile, from Chris Sherwood, UVA, Applied Biomechanics Center, came a request to use the drawing of an improperly restrained booster kid from the flyer SBS USA has provided to teach the 5-Step Test, noting it is the most evocative drawing they had seen to teach doctors. The drawing will complement an article summarizing data on this important subject.

## **Postage to Go Up; SBS News by Snail-Mail to Go Down**

With budget issues and the prevalence of e-mail in mind, SBS USA Board of Directors voted to offer *SafetyBeltSafe News* by e-mail. Forward your e-mail address to join the trend toward receiving your updates faster and more conveniently on your desktop.

Send your e-mail address to [stombrello@carseat.org](mailto:stombrello@carseat.org), and we'll switch you!

## **Two New Advisory Board Members**

Former California First Lady **Gayle Wilson** has joined the Advisory Board of *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. to share her considerable experience in connecting people who want to make change happen. Ms. Wilson brings a strong interest in education, with a particular focus on facilitating the development of scientists, and a focus on protecting children.

**Sean Kane**, founder of Safety Research & Strategies, Inc. in Massachusetts, brings experience in analytical research; investigation and education in safety policy and regulation; injury biomechanics; defects; and liability with focus on motor vehicle issues. Besides papers on these issues, he edits *Safety Record*, a bimonthly newsletter. Kane has two young sons and has personal as well as professional interest in CPS.

## **CPS Retirements**

**Paul Butler** of Ford Motor Company retired unexpectedly in June. Paul shared his knowledge about ticklish CPS issues unreservedly and kept a calm approach to often-emotional topics. His strong advocacy for tethers was reflected in Ford listing higher strengths for tether anchors and offering free installation in older cars.

**Marilyn Sabin** of California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) left this summer after 30 years. She was the first supporter of grant funding for SBS USA programs and maintained keen appreciation of non-profits' roles in traffic safety.



# SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

1124 West Carson Street, LA BioMed, Building B-1 West, Torrance, CA 90502  
Post Office Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003

310/222-6860 • 800/745-SAFE • 800/747-SANO • FAX 310/222-6862 • www.carseat.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Karen Proctor, CPNP

SECRETARY: Marisa Gonzalez

TREASURER: John Nisbet

PAST PRESIDENT: Joan Jackson

## Members-At-Large

California:

Shelagh Carrick

Zosia Chciuk, RNC, BSN, IBCLC

Marc Cohen

Tanya Klowden

Louise Nichols

Becky Thams

Illinois:

Darren K. Qunell

North Dakota:

Carol Meidinger

Pennsylvania:

Donna Ott, MS PT

Barbara Potts, RN

Texas:

Patty Basham

## ADVISORY BOARD

Donna Bryce

Howard M. Ehrenberg, Esq.

SulmeyerKupetz

D.O. Helmick, Retired Commissioner

California Highway Patrol

David Horowitz

Fight Back! Productions

Charles A. Hurley, Executive Director

MADD National Office

Ray Johnson, Retired Member

Youth Offender Parole Board

Sean Kane

Safety Research & Strategies, Inc.

Ellen R. Knell, PhD

Harvey G. Knell

Deane Leavenworth

Vice President, Corporate Relations

Time Warner Cable

Michael J. Puntoriero

Michael Sachs, MD

General Pediatrician

Teresa Samaniego

Public Affairs Director, KABC-TV

Arthur M. Southam, MD

John D. Uphold, MD, FACEP

Beverly Emergency Medical Group

Robert S. Vinetz, MD, FAAP

Gayle Wilson

Frank W. Wylie, APR

Professor Emeritus

California State University, Long Beach

## STAFF

Stephanie M. Tombrello, LCSW

Executive Director

Cheryl A. Kim

Senior Program Consultant

Deborah D. Stewart

Technical Consultant

Kathleen Weber

Technical Consultant

Andrea Swanson

Program Consultant

Kate Quirk, PhD

Project Coordinator

Dear *SafetyBeltSafe News* Reader:

January 29, 2005, marked our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a milestone we never expected to reach when 15 volunteers in Los Angeles County decided to organize to save children from preventable death and injury in motor vehicles. We continue to pursue that goal, proud of our contributions in the past and aware of the current needs of parents and professionals for assistance in achieving higher reductions in these tragic losses.

We need your help to keep our key technical consultation services up-to-date and functional. Despite government grants for specific projects, membership support and unrestricted funds are essential to underwrite this important work.

Before the end of this milestone year, please make a special effort to contribute and assure the ongoing flow of our services to you through December 2006. Assist us in keeping the toll-free Safe Ride Helplines, in English and Spanish, and the interactive Web site current and available.

All supporters will receive a complete annual packet, including the current List of Recalls and Replacement Parts and the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Perfect Gift*, bimonthly *SafetyBeltSafe News*, access to the Audiovisual Library without a rental fee, and a 10% discount on metal buckle-up signs.

A special Web service (CPS Tech Access) is available *on request* in 2006 for supporters at the \$100 level or above. Subscribers to the service may download new and revised manufacturers' instructions received since September 2005. We shall continue to offer Recall Update Service at the Supporting/Community Organization (\$50) level and above *on request*. Notification of new or revised materials, including our List of Recalls and Replacement Parts for Child Restraints, will be sent by e-mail. At this level, if requested, each will be given a password to download and print the list from our Web site at any time. We will send a paper copy of the recall list if no e-mail service is available.

The now bimonthly *Safe Ride News* will be included routinely to those who renew or subscribe at the \$200 level and above. For 2006, we are offering a CPS Tech Special for those at the \$100 level and above: *Safe Ride News* and a CD of the Manufacturers' Instructions to 9/05 for an additional \$25.

If your employer matches contributions to tax-deductible organizations like ours, please encourage them to equal your support. Help us finish our 25<sup>th</sup> as a banner year and start our next in good shape.

Sincerely yours,

Marisa Gonzalez

Secretary, Board of Directors