

SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 31, No. 2



March 2010

Safety Seat Checkup Week 2010

Come to the Petersen Automotive Museum for Safety Seat Checkup Day. March brings the first sign-ups for checkers for April 17 at the Petersen Automotive Museum, our much-appreciated host, for our biggest checkup of the year. Posters, courtesy of ColorGraphics, and flyers (in Spanish, too) are available to invite families to make appointments to have their safety seats checked. We usually find more than 90% of these safety-conscious families need some help in getting it right. We'll be seeing families from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, the 17th.

Sample proclamations are available to encourage cities, counties, and states to remind parents and professionals that children are still being hurt and killed because someone forgot to buckle them up right.

At 11:30 am, we will welcome anyone who is safety belt- or seat-saved to be recognized for their foresight, examples of the happiest sort for those who might not recognize the importance of consistent and correct use. Sponsors for the campaign are CA Office of Traffic Safety (CA OTS) and Toyota North America.

We are eager for volunteers to check seats (9 am-3 pm), to help with set-up (8am) and clean-up (2:30 pm), manage traffic, and greet families. Bucklebear, the full-sized, friendly mascot, will be on hand to provide good cheer.

Special Enforcement Week, April 4-10

Law enforcement officers are planning to focus on child-related violations during Special Enforcement Week, April 4 to 10, sponsored by the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County. All want Safety Seat Checkup Week, April 11-17, to be fatality-free. Redondo Beach Police Department was the first to make it official. Their department also is welcoming SBS USA staff for 20-minute roll call visits to remind officers of the newest child passenger safety (CPS) information as it relates to California law.

Citation reminder cards, covering the law and CPS recommendations in brief and designed to fit in the ticket book, are available for all officers in the field from *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A.

New Issue!

Using the family car as an extension of the home has complicated the child passenger safety issue. Much progress has been made, so fewer children are lying down as they travel or climbing into the rear "package" shelf, both common behaviors in the 1950s.

More recently, new products for entertainment in the mobile living room have posed new challenges. For instance, when the early video screens for rear seating positions were introduced, *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. checkers encountered a family that had wedged a large portable TV between the front seats for the pleasure of the rear-seated kids. And they were not willing to consider its removal! Another child, in Florida, died from such an unsecured missile.

Now, Georgia pediatrician Edward Salzberg points out, placement of built-in screens makes it difficult for rear-facing children to watch entertainment with their older siblings. He reports a rear-facing 2 year old who rode with her head tilted back constantly to catch the movie!

Come to our Social!

April 1st, 9:00-10:00 pm at the Marriott in Philadelphia

Thanks to Nissan North America, SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is offering a chance to network while enjoying snacks. We'll be at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, just across the bridge from the Convention Center. Join us at JW's, which overlooks the lobby on the mezzanine level; enter from 13th Street.

Come by to say hello to your peers from across the country and toast our 30th Anniversary. Please send your reservation by April 5 to stombrello@carseat.org.

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

Mail: Box 553

Altadena, CA 91003

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Stephanie M. Tombrello,
L.C.S.W.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Kellie L. Mzik

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Children's Hospital

Calendar

EVENTS

***4/4-10:** Special Enforcement Week

***4/11-17:** Safety Seat Checkup
Week

***4/17:** Safety Seat Checkup Day,
Petersen Automotive Museum, Los
Angeles. Call 310/222-6860.
*Sponsors: CA Office of Traffic Safety
and Toyota North America.*

CONFERENCES

***4/10-13:** Lifesavers. Philadelphia,
PA. For details, go to
www.lifesaversconference.org

***8/26-28:** Kidz in Motion, Ft.
Worth, TX. For details, go to
www.kidzinmotion.org.

WORKSHOPS

SBS USA Hospital Policy Workshop

***4/8/10:** 12:30 pm- 5pm
Torrance Memorial Med Center
Torrance, CA. Call 310/222-6860 to
register. *Sponsor: CA Kids' Plates*
*Note: This hospital policy workshop
is meant to offer leads for developing
a consistent hospital-wide approach
to meeting CA laws for hospitals and
birth centers regarding CPS
education for clients with young
children.*

SBS USA Educator Workshop

Call 310/222-6860 to register.
6 CEUs for Nurses; 3 CEUs for
CPSTs & CPSTIs.

***5/27:** Childrens Hospital Los
Angeles, CA, 8:30 am-5 pm.
Sponsor: CA Office of Traffic Safety

***6/2: Safety Seat Checkup,** Target
parking lot, Inglewood, CA
10 am-2 pm. *Sponsor: CA Office of
Traffic Safety*

Thank You for Support in our 30th Year!

\$8000 American Honda Motor Co.

\$500 Britax Child Safety
Graco Children's Products
Sunshine Kids

\$250 Diana & Michael Poryes
\$200 American Family Children's
Hospital

Arkansas Children's Hospital
Arkansas Human Development/
Early Head Start (Hot Springs
and Little Rock)

Hawaii Pacific Health/Kapiolani
Medical Center for Women and
Children

Manitowoc County Health Dept.
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Otsego County Health Department
Providence Little Company of
Mary Hospital

Rainbow Injury Prevention Center
St Vincent's Infirmary/NICU

New Booster Available

Chicco has introduced the KeyFit Strada Booster, which has a removable back and EPS energy-absorbing foam for side-impact protection. It may be used with the backrest for children 33 to 100 lbs. or as a backless booster from 40 lbs. There are cut-outs in the headrest so the child can see out the sides. The headrest and side wings adjust up and out.

Recall Expanded

Dorel Maxi-Cosi Mico infant seats made before 6/28/08 may not attach securely to the base or may be difficult to detach. Call 877/657-9546 for a kit to replace springs in the base. Use without the base until repaired.

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.
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* E-mail address is required to receive passwords for access to Recall List and CPS Tech Update.
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 Please mail this form to: *SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.*, Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 *Federal Tax ID #95-3676040*

**Pass the Popcorn
Buckling Up on Screen**

Following up on studies from 1995-1997 and 1998-2002, J E Tongren, lead author of "Injury-Prevention Practices as Depicted in G- and PG-Rated Movies 2003-2007," published 1/11/10 in *Pediatrics*, showed improvement in safety practices displayed for families. Unfortunately, even selecting for films that reflected current society did not show the same level of safety practices as occur in the U.S. For instance, 56% of those shown in cars were buckled up in contrast to 82% in "real life."
 Estimated bike helmet use by kids was 41% in 2003 compared with 25% in the movies. Oddly, 5 of 8 adults were shown with bike helmets, but only 3 of the 24 kids shown were helmeted. Also, unsafe incidents, such as crashes or falls that would lead to hospitalization or even death in real life, often had no untoward consequences.
 Two major factors may help in the future: changing social mores and numerous studies showing the need for improvement in Hollywood!

Input Wanted!

A recent video* shows 3 of 4 safety seats owned by a Chicago father to have harness adjusters that do not hold after the locking mechanism is activated. Prior recalls for an ostensibly similar problem led to new webbing providing suitable friction; however, this case, which is being evaluated by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), raises a question: Should safety seat checkup forms direct checkers to turn the safety seat over to pull on the harness after it has been locked?
 Good quality control design suggests that checkers indicate all steps in the process used to assure that each step was addressed and found either wanting or correct. In addition, it is important to document and record cases in which children have been ejected due to harnesses that appeared locked but were not.
 If you find this problem with safety seats, report it to NHTSA as well as the manufacturer.

* <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/business/dorel-child-restraints-86293657.html>

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
P.O. Box 553
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SafetyBeltSafe News

March 2010

New Ideas to Protect the Pregnant

Rollovers and Emergency Care Recommendations

From the 10/09 issue of *International Journal of Crashworthiness* comes an exploration of the use of safety belt pre-tensioner technology to reduce fetal loss in severe rear-end collisions. The authors, Masahito Hitosugi and Shogo Tokudome of Japan, used pregnant women as models to determine a typical seated position for a 30-week pregnant woman as well as the usual position for test dummies in their assessment.

A frequent factor in fetal loss or injury is the placental abruption that occurs in collisions. Like Phyllis Agran, MD, of UC Irvine, who called the position for late-term pregnant drivers the “uterine crusher position” based on her much earlier research, the authors found that on rebound in serious rear-end collisions, the uterus struck the steering wheel, regardless of belt use.

Their innovative thought is to use the shoulder belt pre-tensioners in many front seats, which are activated in frontal collisions, to reduce rebound interaction. Air bags were not activated by the researchers, since they would not deploy in a rear impact. Activating the pre-tensioner led to pressure peaking earlier and at a lower level. By reducing forward rebound travel, the pre-tensioner reduced force of impact on the uterus from the steering wheel considerably.

The risks of driving when the abdomen is ever closer to the steering wheel must be balanced with the need for women to drive themselves. Women may decide to be passengers when possible during late pregnancy; however, exploration of new technological methods to reduce the risk to the pregnant driver are welcome.

It’s hard to overemphasize the risks of experiencing a vehicle rollover, even when occupants are buckled up correctly. Roof strength and side air curtains help to reduce injury, and electronic stability control is projected to save up to 10,000 lives annually by preventing rollovers. But if it happens to you, receiving appropriate medical care quickly and deftly is essential.

Rollovers, only 3% of crashes, cause a third of the annual traffic death toll! Thus, it was surprising to read in the 1-2/09 *Safety Record of Safety Research and Strategies* that, like the American College of Surgeons in 2006, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had dropped “rollover” as an immediate trigger for transport to a Level 1 (highest) trauma center.

Although committee members for CDC stated that partial or total ejection, which is often linked to rollovers, triggers the high-level care destination, others pointed out that the delay could come much earlier in the process, since those reporting a rollover via 911 might not be aware that an ejection occurred.

Maryland has put rollover back into its triage system, fearing the many complex injury patterns found after rollovers might not be addressed quickly.

Spring break is no time to take a “break” from safety. Remind parents and caregivers that the spring school holiday means more people on the road, and drivers must be extra-vigilant!

What Would You Do?

It was March 15, 2008, in Tucson, AZ, and Margaret Still was enjoying a computer game when her grandmother called. The news was devastating. In Montana, a car crash had claimed the lives of Margaret's parents, and she was facing the imminent death of her 9-year-old son. In the minutes following the call, she was in touch with the Intensive Care Unit in a Bozeman, Montana, hospital, another doctor for a second opinion, and then the organ donor team. And all the time, she was thinking she had just spoken to them the day before when all was well. Now, she was being called to provide organs from the people who meant the world to her.

In her shocked state, she rallied to offer gifts of life from her dear ones, so recently in touch. There was her 14-year-old daughter to tell, the sad trip to Montana ahead, and questions not clearly answered. But one fact stood out: no one in the vehicle was buckled up. Why the driver lost control of the vehicle is unclear, but the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban was traveling at 50 mph when it struck the light pole, having glanced off other vehicles.

Margaret knew she had to reach out to prevent other parents from experiencing the misery she feels. In Wesley's memory, his sister Barbie spoke at the hanging of a memorial plaque at the Boys and Girls Club in Bozeman where he had played. There, the Club director suggested a citywide campaign, using similar plaques, might save lives.

Margaret and Barbie miss Wesley greatly. But Margaret wanted the loss they sustained to mean more. She started a Web site in his honor and published a brochure. Her message: "It's Better to Wear A Seat Belt and Never Need it, than NOT to Wear a Seat Belt and Regret it FOREVER."

Margaret continues to speak out about the importance of buckling up right and to remind everyone that it only takes an instant for one's world to change. After all, Daniel, Barbara, and Wesley Still were only coming home from the grocery store*. Visit the Web site, <http://wesleybuckleup.moogo.com>, or send a message to Margaret at countrygirl59718@yahoo.com.

*Note: *84% of crashes involving children occur within 20 minutes of home!*

WHEN IS A BARGAIN, NOT A BARGAIN?

by

Judy Slattery, CPSTI, Car Seat Safety People, LLC

Why do Technicians and Instructors always "FOLLOW THE HARNESS TO ITS END?" Proper attachment of the harness, the infant's only attachment to the seat, must be checked, regardless of how "out of sight" its path. A recent inspection for the Ride Safe from the Start (RSFTS) program featured a freshly cleaned Chicco KeyFit 22, dated 2006, obtained from Craig's List but, by coincidence, sold by a colleague of the new owner. The mom-to-be did check out the seat history, as suggested by RSFTS, but problems occurred because the seller washed everything.

When following the harness, I found a twist and discovered the harness was not threaded through the shell, and one side of the harness was barely attached to the S-clip. This dangerous error was unsuspected by the new user; Chicco instructions do not cover rethreading since they prohibit harness removal. Chicco provided instructions by phone; now SBS USA will provide the instructions sent with replacement harnesses as part of the KeyFit package.

Until a new CD of Manufacturer's Instructions with Summary Sheets is compiled, this addition will be on the special Web page for Tech Access at www.carseat.org. Be sure to download it along with any new safety seat instructions located there. Non-subscribers may e-mail ckim@carseat.org for a copy.

There were 3 additional clues of something amiss with this seat: 1) part of the cover backing was melted, indicating unusual heating; 2) the harness on a 3-year-old seat was spotless; 3) infant insert and pillow were missing. The parents are to replace the harness and cover. If parents consider a pre-used safety seat, the first step is reviewing the instructions for missing parts; the second, to take a history, including checking recalls; and the third, to trace each step of the harness to be sure the baby is secured to the shell of the seat.

For most new parents, selecting a brand new seat is the best bargain!

Note: SBS USA has a 1-page comment on Recycled Seats in English or Spanish, #15 of Helpful Handouts at www.carseat.org.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.



Safety Seat Checkup Day

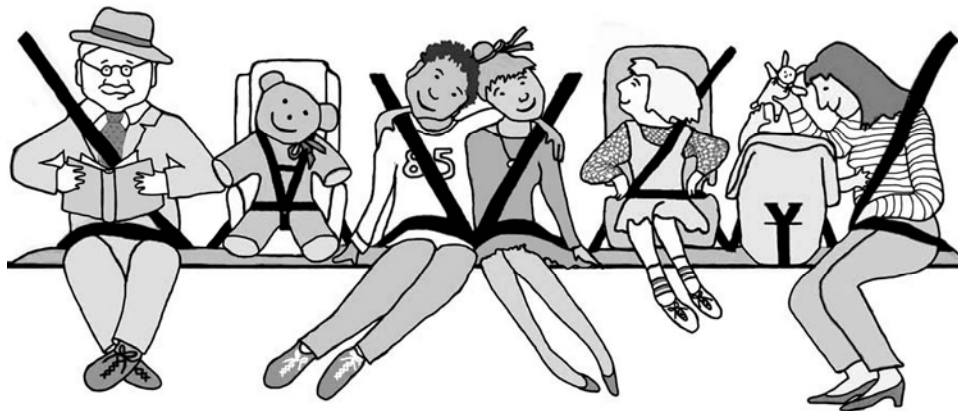
Saturday, April 17 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*For a checkup appointment, call 310/222-6860. If you do not have an appointment, there may be a wait of more than one hour or you may be turned away.

11:30 a.m. Welcome Ceremony and Recognition of Notable Guests

Petersen Automotive Museum

6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036 (Wilshire at Fairfax parking lot)



Buckling up is a family affair.

Safety Seat Checkup Week April 11-17, 2010

Sponsors:

California Office of Traffic Safety

Toyota North America

Major Supporter: Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County

FREE SAFETY SEAT CHECKUP

More than 90% of the car seats we check have one or more errors.

Meet Bucklebear and his friends.

Petersen Museum discount coupons available for families participating in the checkup.

Help save children's lives with your tax-deductible support.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. Box 553 Altadena, CA 91003 310/222-6860 www.carseat.org

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