

SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 34, No. 1

January 2013



■ LATCH: What's Happening?

A coalition of petitioners for reconsideration of the lower-weight labeling proposal for use of lower LATCH attachments sent the current LATCH Manual input from vehicle and safety seat manufacturers to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for their consideration at the closed meeting with safety seat manufacturers on 11/27/2012. The coalition included leadership from both Safe Ride News (SRN) and SBS USA, along with Joseph Colella and Ben Hoffman, MD. The meeting was well attended by NHTSA personnel with Administrator David Strickland personally involved; a decision is possible by spring.

However, the LATCH survey revealed that many vehicle manufacturers were already moving to the proposed “math” approach, while safety seat manufacturers were sticking with their prior recommendations. The SRN letter recommended that more emphasis should be on strengthening the LATCH bars, if that is indeed an issue, rather than into trying to give parents instructions which might even lead to use of boosters at an earlier age if parents decide not to learn how to use the safety belt for attachment.

Since, to date, we have not been shown data that indicate LATCH bar failure and yet we know that many users do not recognize that there might be different weights for use of LATCH vs. safety belt attachment for the same seat, it is hard to quantify risk. It may be that there has already been a real-world experiment being conducted by parents inadvertently.

Another issue is whether or not this might lead to more strictures on using top tethers, even though NHTSA specifically stated the intention to test safety seats with the 77-lb. dummy using the top tether. With no alternative to the tether anchor, this could reduce protection of the child's head, face, and brain, most vulnerable areas to long-term deficits.

Stay tuned to the issue and be sure to share data you collect on either side of this issue with NHTSA and us.

■ Training Options:

Thanks to the California Office of Traffic Safety (CA OTS) grant to Pomona PD/SBS USA, a series of training opportunities is coming up. Register ASAP.

- For those who have continued to keep up with child passenger safety (CPS) but have not renewed certification, February 8 is a Technician Renewal course.
- For those entering the field, planning to become Technicians, or seeking CEUs to renew Technician Certification, an Educator Workshop is scheduled for 3/5.
- Finally, Technician Certification Class is planned for 4/2-5, including the Safety Seat Checkup Day event on April 6th at the Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles.
- Roll call training for law enforcement agencies can be arranged as well.

For details, call 310/222-6860 or e-mail stombrello@carseat.org.

Welcome!

... to the 2013-2014 **Board of Directors!** Bonnie Oseas, President; Karen Proctor, Secretary; John Nisbet, Treasurer; and Members-At-Large: Betsey Mowery, AR; Zosia Chciuk; Marc Cohen; Anne Hamilton; Bonnie Lovette; Laura Rohnert; Becky Thams, CA; Vera Fullaway, CO; Darren Qunell, IL; Annette Knobloch, LA; Emilie Crown, MD; and Tammy Franks, OR.

...to new **Advisory Board member Talulah Riley**, actor, stepmother of twins and triplets, all boys, and very familiar with the adventures of CPS installation.

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, LCSW,
 CPSTI
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
 Kellie L. Mzik, MA
EDITORIAL BOARD:
 Sean Kane, BA, Safety Research
 and Strategies, Inc
 Annette Knobloch, DNS, RN,
 MPH, CPST, CNE, Associate
 Professor of Nursing, Our
 Lady of the Lake College
 Betty Mason, BA, MPH, CPSTI
 Jim Savage, Kohl's Safety
 Center, American Family
 Children's Hospital

Calendar

■ Event

Safety Seat Checkup Day

April 6: Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles, CA.
 10 am - 2 pm for families
 (Technicians 9 am - 3 pm: volunteer at 310/222-6860)

■ Conferences

Lifesavers 2013

April 13 - 16: Denver, CO.
 For conference information and to register, visit www.lifesaversconference.org.

Kidz In Motion (KIM) Conference

August 27 - 29: Albuquerque, NM.
 Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa. Go to www.kidzinmotion.org for conference information and to register.

■ Training Opportunities

Classroom: Altadena (CA) Community Center. *Sponsored by CA OTS and Pomona PD.*

February 8: Technician Renewal training. (for previously certified Technicians wishing to recertify)
 8:30 am - 5 pm.
 SAFE KIDS fee: \$75.

March 5: Educator Workshop (for newcomers and Techs: 3 CEUs for Technicians; 6 CEUs for nurses)
 8:15 am - 4:30 pm

April 2- 6: National Technician Certification Training
 8 am - 5 pm daily, including the checkup on 4/6.
 SAFE KIDS fee: \$75.
 (application available from i0680@hotmail.com)

Congratulations...

... to Lincoln School in Pomona and Cleveland Elementary in Pasadena on completing "Boosters Are For Big Kids"!!
 Cleveland parents completed a training to assist in the classrooms and at the vehicles; Lincoln Principal Alicia McMullin pitched in by lending her car and helping with the 5-Step Testing!

Thanks to 2013 Members!

- \$10,000**
Volkswagen Group of America
- \$2500**
Emily Alexander
- \$1000**
Darren Qunell
- \$500**
Samantha Merton/Brett Humphreys
- \$410**
Kids Travelsafe of Langlade County
- \$300**
Diane and Michael Poryes
- \$200**
American Family Children's Hosp.
Auto Club of Southern California
Boulder Creek Fire Protection Dist.
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Egleston
Dubuque CPS Coalition
Glendale Memorial Medical Center
Mercy San Juan Medical Center, Trauma Prevention
Gisela Moriarty
SAFE KIDS Frederick County
St. Helena Hospital
St. Vincent Infirmary
San Luis Obispo Public Health Department
Shasta County Public Health Dept.
University Medical Center / Brackenridge
UPPA Baby

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: Cell () _____ 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 include *SafetyBeltSafe News*, which qualifies for 1 Continuing Education Unit per year for re-certifying Technicians and Instructors with subscriber code. \$200 or more includes *Safe Ride News*.

___ Check here if you are a Certified Technician or Instructor and want information about CEUs for subscribers.

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 December, 2011)

For \$100 members: Add \$35 and receive Safe Ride News thru 2013 & current DVD of safety seat manufacturers' instructions!

Payment: Check/Money Order (enclosed) _____

Credit Card (Visa / MC / Discover / Amex) # _____ Security Code (on front or back) _____

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

■ **It Can Happen to Anyone!**

December 28 was an ordinary evening to relax over dinner out and then head home over familiar streets for bed. Weather was good; the light had been green; and suddenly, the Prius was t-boning a vehicle that ran a long-red light.

Everything worked: the Prius engine dropped to the ground, avoiding the cabin; the air bags deployed; the belts tightened; and my 3 eldest grandchildren and son-in-law Tim survived the dead-on crash with relatively minor injuries; even the 18-year-old driver and 16-year-old passenger in the “offending” vehicle came through the crash well. But the shock and disruption continue.

We are thankful for good design and buckle-up habits. Just remember this when someone suggests that one can “take a safety holiday” just this once to go “around the corner.”

*SBS USA Executive Director,
Stephanie Tombrello*

■ **Warning: Moms-to-Be!**

The first issue that newly pregnant women consider is rarely preventing traumatic injury to the coming baby; however, a recent paper by V. C. Romero and M. Pearlman of the OB-GYN Department at University of Michigan, in [Seminars in Perinatology](#), shows that trauma complicates 7% of pregnancies. The authors indicate that the OB is a key member of the treating team in such cases; that caregivers need to recognize the needs of both mother and fetus; and that prevention is key.

Outreach on buckle-up issues to those serving the pregnant can reduce risk. The SBS USA online teaching program for 1st time expectants, *Ride Safe from the Start*, includes how to wear safety belts during pregnancy.

■ **Recall:**

Britax announced that the HUGS chest pads on some models were made of softer material that could allow a child to bite off a piece and possibly choke. Affected models, all made 6/1/2012 to 8/31/2012: Advocate 70-G3; Boulevard 70-G3; Pavilion 70-G3. Specific models are listed at www.carseat.org on our recall list.

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

*Dedicated to improving
child passenger safety
since 1980*

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Van Nuys, CA
Permit No. 20

Return Service Requested

*Don't be left out in the cold!
Renew your membership today.*

SafetyBeltSafe News

January 2013

Boosters Save Lives and Reduce Injury

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia research long has been quoted, showing 45% reduction in injury for kids in boosters, not just belts. A recent paper, "*Booster Seat Laws and Fatalities in Children 4 to 7 Years of Age*" by Rebeca Mannix et al in 11/5/12 [Pediatrics](#), shows fatality reduction in the national FARS database cases, most striking for older children, linked with booster laws.

The study was detailed in the issues for which the researchers controlled in the effort to see if the booster laws themselves had the primary effect.

The findings mirror the practical assessments that children do better with boosters until at least age 7; however, since the laws impact behavior (shown in other studies, such as use of boosters when carpooling, e.g.), the higher the age listed in the law, given what we have shown is lack of belt fit until age 10-12, the better.

Available NOW: The 2013 LATCH Manual is on sale from Safe Ride News Publications. Order the ORANGE-cover 8th edition at www.saferidenews.com.

New Products

- The new rear-facing-only **Graco** SnugRide Click Connect 35, certified for 4-35 lbs., has 4 sets of harness slots, 2 crotch strap positions, hook-on LATCH connectors, and dual angle indicators (for under 3 months and older babies). Unlike the Click Connect 40, there is no lock-off, and the angle adjustment knob is at the front of the base, not on top. All locked handle positions are acceptable. The **Graco** Head Wise 70 convertible, for 4-40 lbs. facing rear, 20-70 lbs. forward facing, features a one-hand, no re-thread harness and 8-position adjustable headrest and 2 crotch strap positions. Its LATCH system has 2 sets of push-on connectors – one each for rear-facing and forward-facing use.
- The Foonf convertible from **Clek** is certified for 14-50 lbs. rear facing if the child is able to sit upright unassisted and forward facing from 20 to 65 lbs. The base and anti-rebound bar must be attached when the seat is used rear facing. It features flexible LATCH push-on connectors up to 40 lbs. for rear-facing use and rigid LATCH connectors for up to 48 lbs. forward facing. Forward facing, the seat **MUST** be tethered. There are 5 sets of harness slots and 2 crotch strap positions. The seat expires 9 years from manufacture date.
- The **Dorel Juvenile Group** Maxi Cosi Prezi, a rear-facing-only seat certified for 4-30 lbs., features a no-rethread harness, anti-rebound bar, 2 crotch strap positions, a dual angle indicator, push-on LATCH connectors, and a recline adjustment built into the base.
- **Harmony Juvenile Products** has introduced the Harmony Folding Booster and the Defender 360, a combination seat. The folding booster holds kids 30-110 lbs., must be used with the backrest, and has a 9-position adjustable headrest. It folds down to the size of a small suitcase for travel. The Defender 360 is a combination seat, with a 5-point harness certified for 22-65 lbs., and as a booster, for 30-110 lbs. It features a front-adjust, no-rethread harness, hook-on LATCH connectors, and a 9-position headrest.
- **Recaro** has introduced the Euro convertible for 5-35 lbs. rear facing, 20-70 lbs. forward facing. There are 5 sets of harness slots with a front harness adjuster. Harness straps have Safety Stitch indicators to ensure that harness straps are not twisted. LATCH features push-on connectors. The lock-offs are for forward-facing use only.