

# SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 34, No. 2



March 2013

## ■ Safety Seat Checkup Week, 3/31-4/6/13, Coming Soon!

With April 6 the culmination of Safety Seat Checkup Week, we invite you to publicize it for the parents in your community and check with your city and county leaders to get them behind it. It's not always easy to focus mass media attention on correct, consistent use of safety seats and belts--an old story, they figure. But for first-time parents-to-be, it is a new issue, and "experienced" parents may miss current advice. We still see high levels of incorrect use at checkups.

Petersen Automotive Museum again has offered its covered parking area for the 10-am-to-2-pm checkup in Los Angeles at Fairfax and Wilshire where we will welcome checkers for our teams. Sign up at 310/222-6860 to come at 9 am, stay until 3 pm, and take in the museum for free afterwards. Parents will be given coupons toward reduced-cost entry after their checkups are completed. We will welcome volunteers for traffic control, set-up, and clean up--and to animate Bucklebear, our favorite greeter, gentle with children!

Flyers about the Day, posters about the Week, and a sample proclamation for your community are available.

## **Special Enforcement Week:**

The Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County once again is partnering with us from 3/24-3/30 to focus on children at risk in cars, trying to aim with publicity and enforcement for a fatality-free Safety Seat Checkup Week.

The Week was a response to the horror of the death of a child on the 405 freeway during our Checkup many years ago. As the news blared from the law enforcement radios, all working hard to check seats were deeply dismayed. If your department wants to participate, let us know so we can list it on our Scroll of Appreciation.

## ■ New Requirement for California Health Facilities

California Vehicle Code Section 27363.5 requires that hospitals, clinics, and birthing centers provide and discuss the child restraint law with parents of patients under age eight. From January 2013, they also must provide contact information for parents to get low-cost or no-cost assistance relating to safety seat requirements, installation, and inspection.

Contact information may include: Web site or phone number for SeatCheck; phone number for local CHP office; inspection locators on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) or California DPH Web sites.

The California Health and Safety Code still requires that health facilities, clinics, and alternative birth centers have a written policy relating to the dissemination of the following information: summary of the law; list of child passenger safety (CPS) programs in the county; information describing risks of not using a seat.

## Thanks to 2013 Members:

**\$2230**  
ACTS-Oregon (State membership)

**\$500**  
Britax Child Safety  
Graco Children's Products

**\$200**  
Black River Memorial Hospital  
Cook Children's Medical Center  
Injury Prevention Center  
John Muir Health  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Pomona Valley Hospital  
Medical Center  
Randall Children's Hospital  
at Legacy Emmanuel  
Becky Thams

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## 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](http://www.lifesaversconference.org).  
*Note: SBS USA will have  
an exhibit 4/14-15*

### **Kidz In Motion (KIM) Conference**

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

### ■ Training Opportunities

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

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](mailto:i0680@hotmail.com))

## In the News

*Watch KTLA-TV Morning Show for  
coverage of the 2-year renewal of  
the Toyota-Lexus Tether Retrofit  
Program and an update on the  
recycling program live on 3/27 and  
in mid-April!*

## Litany of Leaders Affected by Crashes

*The New York Times*, 10/12/12, ran  
an OP-ED piece by Cynthia  
Wachtell, which reminds us that  
even national leaders are not  
immune from the consequences of  
car crashes, focusing on those who  
have lived in the White House or  
held the Vice Presidency.

- VP Joe Biden 40 years ago lost his wife and infant daughter and rushed back to Delaware from DC to help his 2 sons recover.
- Barack Obama's father experienced 2 serious crashes before succumbing to the 3rd in 1982. when his son was just 21.
- Bill Clinton never knew his father who was killed in a car crash 3 months before his birth.
- Laura Welch Bush killed a school friend and classmate when she ran a STOP sign and hit a car Michael Douglas was driving.
- VP Al Gore came close to losing his son, Albert Gore III, when the 6 year old ran into the street and was thrown 30 feet.

Two recent unsuccessful  
Presidential candidates, John  
McCain and Mitt Romney, were  
touched by car crashes as well.

- Returning from his imprisonment in No. Vietnam, McCain found his now-former wife disfigured by a crash and needing 23 operations in 2 years.
- Romney, as a 21-year-old missionary in France, was driving when his car was hit head-on by a speeding, likely intoxicated driver, killing a passenger in his car.

**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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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) \_\_\_\_\_

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## ■ KTLA TV Raises Awareness of Key CPS Programs

*SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.* has shared key issues with morning TV viewers in the Los Angeles area on three occasions with invitations from the Morning Show roaming reporter Gayle Anderson. On 10/29/12, the TV team visited TMC Horizon, the only recycling center in Los Angeles County to accept unusable safety seats for repurposing, not landfill disposal, and shared the important reasons making it inadvisable to re-use seats. This served as a kickoff for announcing a beginning network of drop-off sites and introduced ways to evaluate seats and resources for new seats for those financially stressed.

When the KTLA Morning Team visited Bob Smith Toyota in La Crescenta, CA, on 11/14/12, not only did the Toyota/Lexus Tether Retrofit Program through SBS USA get a boost, but the issue of the importance of tether use was strongly supported. Families with various vehicle makes sought follow-up information.

The February 19th visit to Roosevelt Elementary School, Pasadena, showed how to do the 5-Step Test to determine the need, both for safety and legality, for boosters, usually to ages 10-12, with the participation of kids, parents, and SBS USA. Both of the previous services were raised as reminders, and Safety Seat Checkup Day program activities were announced.

## ■ Do the Research!

SBS News editor Kellie Mzik is a Communication professor in Georgia and teaches Public Speaking. A recent assignment had students choosing a side on a controversial topic and defending their position in a Persuasive Speech. Students were required to include at least four scholarly, peer-reviewed sources to back up their argument.

One speaker chose to make a stand on "The Government Shouldn't Require Seat Belt Use -- It Violates Our Freedom."

The day of his speech, the young man stood, told his audience his intended topic, and then said, "But then I did all that research Prof. Mzik made us do, and guess what? You people are all crazy if you aren't wearing your seat belt every single time you get in a car!"

He then gave an eloquent, articulate argument *for* safety belt use, just because he took the time to do the research.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.  
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**SafetyBeltSafe News**

**March 2013**

## New Seats

**Dorel Juvenile Group** Stack It! is a no-back booster for kids 40-100 lbs. There is no shoulder belt adjuster.

**Evenflo** boosters and combination seats in booster mode are now certified to 110 lbs. Higher weight limits are *not* retroactive to earlier models.

Expiration dates for newer **Graco** seats are 7 years from manufacture date for those with harnesses and 10 years, for booster-only seats.

**Graco** Connex, for kids at least 4 years old and 40-100 lbs., is a no-back booster with optional LATCH connectors.

**Graco** Ready Ride, a convertible certified for 4-40 lbs. rear-facing and 20-50 lbs. forward-facing, has a non-adjustable crotch strap and 2 sets of loops on the harness and 3 sets of harness slots. Use lower sets 1 or 2 rear facing, sets 2 and 3, forward facing. The optional head support is used only with the harness in slots 1 and 2. It has separate rear-facing recline angles for babies under and over 3 months old.

**JJ Cole** is marketing the **Tomy** Via i470, a rear-facing-only seat for children 5-22 lbs. without the base; 5-35 lbs. with the base. The base must be used if the child weighs more than 22 lbs. There are lock-offs on both the base and the shell. The crotch strap is not adjustable. The infant insert may not be used beyond 12 lbs.

**Recaro** has introduced the Performance Series of the ProSport, ProRide, and ProBooster. The ProBooster now has LATCH attachments. Using the LATCH attachments in the booster mode of the Performance Series ProSport and, retroactively, of the ProSport, is allowed. The Performance Series ProRide and ProSport feature the HERO harness; seeing the white stripe on the outer edges of the harness straps means the harness is not twisted. The new ProRide lacks rear-facing belt guides. The original ProRide, ProSport, and ProBooster models will be produced through 2013.

**Safe Traffic System** has introduced the Ride Safer Travel Vest 3. The small size covers children 30-60 lbs.; the large size, children 50-80 lbs. Unlike the Ride Safer Travel Vest 2, also still being produced, the 3 series must be used with a lap and shoulder belt and has neither crotch strap nor tether strap.

**Snugli** is branding 3 **Evenflo** safety seats with their "temperature-management" cover. The Snugli Booster Car Seat, 20-50 lbs. in harness mode and 40-110 pounds with non-removable back, is the Evenflo Maestro. The All In One Car Seat (5-40 lbs. rear facing, 22-65 lbs. forward facing with harness, and 30-110 lbs. in booster mode) is the Evenflo Symphony 65. The Infant Car Seat (rear-facing only, 5-35 lbs.) is the Evenflo Embrace 35. Look for an Evenflo/Snugli convertible seat soon.

### Coming Soon!

The 2013 DVD of Child Restraint Manufacturers' Instructions with Summary Sheets can be ordered now! Single DVD is \$20; rates for large orders are posted at [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org).

## ■ Technician Corner:

***Tether Anchor Mystery:*** Barbara Birkenshaw of Volkswagen Safety Affairs and Vehicle Testing took the role of historical sleuth following a Technician query about a 1999 Jetta tether anchor status. The owner said there was an anchor in the center rear but none in the 2 outboard, lower anchor bar locations. This seemed very strange until Barbara reviewed old records, finding a March 1, 1999 press release which noted that the new Jetta had lower anchors, but a dealer would need to install the top tether anchor to complete the system. Also some VW vehicles had a single tether anchor in the center location. Possibly if the vehicle isn't with its original owner, the installation was done in a single location. As an aside, Ms Birkenshaw noted a query about a 2006 vehicle lacking tether anchors which was determined to have a non-U.S. version of the rear filler panel installed by a dealer!

***Public Transportation and Kids:*** A regular query about California law in particular and for safety in general is what to do if one is using public transportation, especially in urban areas. Cabs usually aren't equipped with safety seats; buses, trains, and subways rarely have belts--but some inter-city buses do. Problems reported include families forced to leave safety seats behind due to high charges for baggage on buses; families living in cities, using a mix of transportation modes; and visitors from abroad.

For the youngest children, a stroller/safety seat combination can work for cabs, and at least the seat can be put on the floor of a belt-less vehicle, possibly mitigating the trajectory compared with launch from a vehicle seat in a sudden stop or crash. For older children, the Ride Safer Vest by Safe Traffic System can be used with the shoulder-lap belt without a tether in cabs. For children "in the middle," the Orbit Baby Toddler Seat can be used on a stroller. Dorel Go Hybrid, a portable combination seat, works for forward-facing children if either a tether anchor or shoulder-lap belt are available. All Diono seats fold up for parents to carry; the company recommends tether use but reports good performance if only belts are available. Once children use boosters, backless versions can be carried for cab rides, but all need shoulder-lap belts.

For visitors without seats meeting U S regulations, travel choices are less easy. Rental car agencies may have seats; in CA, it is mandatory. However, parents report some are not in the mandated good condition. If they are visiting without a rental vehicle, their hosts may not provide appropriate options without preplanning. SBS USA is available to counsel the hosts, if parents share through our e-mail/800 lines.

***Updated Evenflo Instructions:*** The company sent out 2 changes with retroactive status for their products. Addressing the risk of placing a child in an air bag-equipped location, the statement now reads not to place a safety seat there "unless the air bag can be deactivated." Covering the snugness of harness straps, the company has added in the "pinch test": "Check the harness near the shoulders for slack. You should NOT be able to pinch the harness....." Cheryl Kim of SBS USA first suggested this test which avoids issues of adult finger size and baby body compression which plagued earlier suggested techniques.

## ■ Does Incorrect Use Cause Injury?

Suzanne Tylko of Transport Canada and three researchers from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia presented "In-Vehicle Demonstration of the Consequences of Improper Child Seat Installations, Phase I: Forward-Facing Child Restraints" at the 10th International Conference, Protection of Children in Cars, December, 2012.

Four of the tests showed the consequences of lacking tether attachment. The first simply omitted tether use; 2 others added loose belt or lower anchor attachment; and the 4th had the belt routed in the rear-facing belt path for a forward-facing dummy. The 5th film shows the path if the shoulder belt is behind the back; as the lap belt penetrated the joint at the hip, this prevented full ejection of the dummy. The 6-year-old dummy with the unattached crotch strap was more unlucky, being ejected entirely, and the 3 year old, in a convertible seat, used as a booster, is left hanging by underarms and chest. Other outcomes of errors were less visually clear, including routing the harness below shoulder level, a loose harness, or an improperly located chest clip. Reclining the seat and routing a loose tether strap over the headrest led to increased acceleration but not an image underscoring the degraded performance. The full presentation shares some misuse-generated injury patterns.

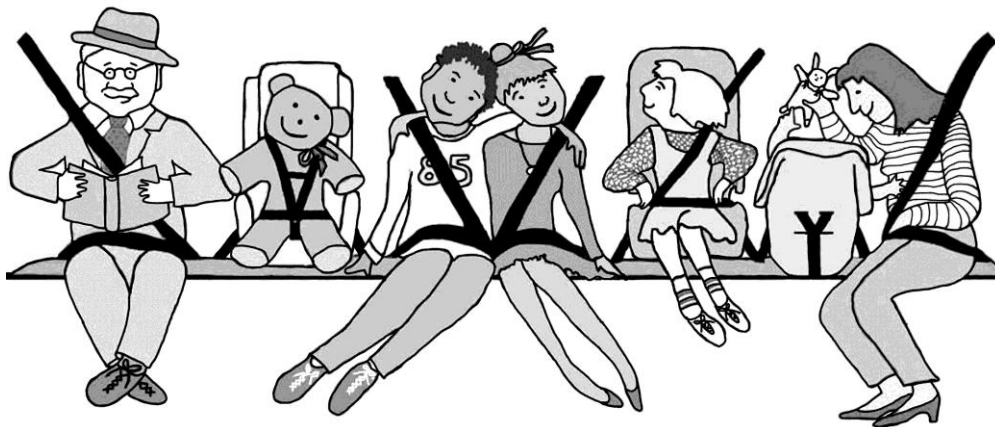
*SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.*  
**Safety Seat Checkup Day**  
**Saturday, April 6 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.\***

\*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 March 31 to April 6, 2013

***Sponsors: California Office of Traffic Safety, Pomona Police Department, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.***

***Major Supporter: Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County***

**FREE SAFETY SEAT CHECKUP**

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Meet Bucklebear and his friends.

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

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***SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.*** Box 553 Altadena, CA 91003 310/222-6860 [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)  
SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is the national, non-profit, member-supported organization for child passenger safety.

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