



Are You Taking Proper Safety Precautions for Your Children?

Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 13-19)

Serves as an Important Reminder for Parents

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On behalf of the California Office of Traffic Safety

For any parent or caregiver, nothing is more important than ensuring a child's safety. Whether driving young passengers around the block to school or across town for soccer practice, taking a few extra minutes to ensure that children are properly secured in the correct car restraint should always remain a top

priority. National Child Passenger Safety Week, taking place September 13-19, aims to serve as an important reminder for this necessary precaution. During this week, many communities will have Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on-hand to provide free education on how to properly install and use car seats, booster seats, and seat belts for children of all ages – your car, your seat, your child.

It is estimated that at least 70 percent of car seats are improperly installed. Among child vehicle passengers under the age of five, an estimated 263 lives were saved by child restraints in 2013. Furthermore, an additional 55 children could have survived if car seats had been utilized 100 percent of the time. In order to help ensure maximum safety for children, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) offers the following reminders for proper car seat use:

- Always read the manufacturer's instructions to familiarize yourself with proper car seat installation procedures
- Be sure that your car seat's harness adheres to proper fit guidelines
- To ensure the highest level of protection, always replace a car seat following a moderate or severe crash
- If you are considering a second-hand car seat, be sure that an instruction book is included, that it has never been in a crash – no matter how minor -- and check its labels for a date of manufacture and model number. This information is necessary to find out if the car seat is too old or has been recalled

OTS encourages parents and caregivers to take advantage of National Child Passenger Safety Week by visiting a local certified Child Passenger Safety Technician in their community during this week or any time throughout the year. Fitting locations and more information on proper car seat installation can be found by clicking the car seat section at www.safercar.gov. For more information on other traffic safety related efforts, visit the California Office of Traffic Safety at www.ots.ca.gov, on Facebook at Facebook.com/CaliforniaOTS, or follow OTS on Twitter, at @OTS_CA.