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FIRE DISTRICT OF SUN CITY WEST

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NEWSRELEASE

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2010 Child Passenger Safety Week-Is Your Child Safety Seat Safe?

(SUN CITY WEST, AZ), (SEPTEMBER 14), 2010 – During Child Passenger Safety Week (September 19-25), Sun City West Fire District is urging parents, grandparents, and caregivers to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed and correctly used in their vehicles. The goal is to make sure all children are secured properly in appropriate child safety seats, booster seats or seat belts seats – every trip, every time. “Securing your children properly in age- and size-appropriate child safety seats — in the back seat of your vehicle — is the most effective thing you can do to protect them in the event of a crash,” states Holli Sandeen, community outreach specialist. In fact, in motor vehicle crashes, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research, 8,959 lives have been saved from 1975 to 2008 by the proper use of child restraints. In 2008, among children under age 5 in passenger vehicles, an estimated 244 lives were saved by child restraint use (child safety seats and adult seat belts). Research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8.

Because child safety seats do save lives, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico require their use. Even so, motor vehicle traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death for children age 3 and older.

The good news is that a majority of parents buckle up their children in child safety seats, booster seats, or seat belts. However, according to the NHTSA, nearly 3 out of 4 child safety seats are not used properly, which is a grave risk when traveling.

“It’s the responsibility of every single parent and caregiver out there to make sure their children are safely restrained – every trip, every time,” said Sandeen. “We are urging everyone to get their child safety seats inspected. When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes.”

Failure to read the child safety seat instructions, in addition to vehicle owner’s manual instructions regarding installation, could result in serious injury or death as a result of a failure of the child safety seat to be securely and/or properly restrained.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers can visit their local inspection stations and refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines that determine which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4’9” tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4’9” tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week and to find the child seat inspection station nearest you visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS> and <http://www.facebook.com/childpassengersafety>.

Child Passenger Safety Week Local Events 2010

Safe Kids Maricopa County
1815 W. Glendale Avenue, Glendale, AZ
09/25/2010
Hours: 8am to 11am
Contact: Berenise Vasquez Phone: 602-406-3918



Kids Safety First
4434 West Glendale Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85301
09/25/2010
Hours: 9am to 12Noon
Contact: Lisa Kutis Phone: 623-930-4481

Safe Kids Maricopa County
4425 E. Cotton Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ 85040
09/25/2010
Hours: 9am to 1pm
Contact: Erin Kuroiwa Phone: 602-546-2277

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