

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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## **Safety Seat Checkup Coming to Pomona**

**What:** Safety Seat Checkup

**Where:** Walmart, 80 Rio Rancho Road, Pomona, CA 91766

**When:** Friday, March 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Media opportunities:** interviews with safety experts, interviews with parents, photo opportunities (children, safety seats, community, hospital, and law enforcement volunteers)

**TORRANCE, CA (February 18, 2016)** – SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is offering parents the opportunity to have their children’s safety seats inspected on at a safety seat checkup on Friday March 11, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The checkup will be held at the Walmart store in Pomona. Parents and caregivers are advised to make an appointment in advance to secure a spot. Call the Safe Ride Helpline (310-222-6860) and leave a message to receive a return call.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death for children and young adults. Despite this, more than ninety percent of the children who attended safety seat checkups in the Los Angeles area this year were buckled up incorrectly. In 2014, over 6000 children under 14 were killed or seriously injured as a result of vehicle crashes in California. 63% of children who died were unrestrained.

Teams of nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and other trained volunteers will inspect each safety seat to make sure it fits the child properly, is correctly secured, and is in the safest possible location in the vehicle. Children ages 4 to

12 will be invited to try the 5-Step Test to find out if they fit properly in the vehicle safety belts or require use of a booster. Tests of 7800 children up to age 13 held by SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. show that half of ten year olds and one quarter of twelve year olds need a booster seat to fit their safety belts properly. Children without boosters are 45% more likely to be injured in a crash.

California law requires children to ride in a safety seat or booster, in the back seat, until they are at least eight years old. However, most children need a booster for proper belt fit until they are 10 to 12 years old, depending on their proportions and the design of the vehicle and to use only the belt legally, it must fit correctly. SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. recommends that children ride in the back seat, which is 40% safer than the front, until they are old enough to learn to drive.

Briefings for journalists will be available throughout the event.

This program is made possible with funding from a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week, visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

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