

For immediate release

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Safety Seat Checkup Coming to San Fernando Valley

CANOGA PARK, CA (November 21, 2008) – SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. — the leading national non-profit organization dedicated solely to keeping kids safe in the car — is coming to the San Fernando Valley, offering a safety seat checkup to families in the Canoga Park area.

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Where: Columbus School Clinic, 22250 Elkwood Street, Canoga Park 91304 (enter on Farralone)

Contact: To make an appointment, call the Safe Ride Helpline, (310) 222-6860, weekday afternoons. Drive-ins will be taken if there are unused appointment times.

Why should parents attend?

- Motor vehicle crashes still kill more children than any other cause and inflict many thousands of serious, permanent injuries annually.
- Most of these deaths and injuries are preventable, but more than ninety percent of children are buckled up incorrectly.
- Buckling up children correctly is more difficult than most people realize. Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available at the checkup to provide up-to-date information while inspecting safety seats, ensuring that they fit the child, and are installed correctly.

- Most children need to be in a child restraint (safety seat or booster) until 9–10 years old, but few parents know this.

Further details:

In 2006, 179 child passengers under 15 died in California and 18,318 were injured as a result of vehicle crashes. More than 80% of the small children killed would have survived if they had been properly buckled up, reports the California Highway Patrol.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is nationally recognized for technical expertise and program excellence. The checkup is made possible with funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, go to www.carseat.org or call the Safe Ride Helpline: (310) 222-6860 or (800) 745-SAFE. For Spanish: (310) 222-6862 or (800) 747-SANO.

“This is a great opportunity for families to check that their children are riding safely,” said SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. Executive Director Stephanie Tombrello. “Most parents don’t realize that their children are at risk in the car. I hope that many local families will come to make sure that their children are well protected.”

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