

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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## **Los Angeles Celebrates National Seat Check Saturday**

What: Safety Seat Checkup marking National Seat Check Saturday

Where: Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance.

Enter from 220<sup>th</sup> & Meyler Streets, proceed west on South Drive to the parking lot for the Professional Building on the corner of 220<sup>th</sup> Street & Normandie Avenue.

When: Saturday, September 20, 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 (August 25, 2014) – SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is offering parents the opportunity to have their children’s safety seats inspected on National Seat Check Saturday on September 20, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The checkup, which is part of Child Passenger Safety Week, will be held at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance. 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 2010, 82 child passengers under 15 died and 16,882 were injured as a result of vehicle crashes in

California. More than 80% of the small children killed would have survived if they had been properly buckled up.

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 8 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 3500 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.

Professionals and volunteers who work with children are invited to attend a free workshop on how to protect children in cars on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at the Family Health Education Center, Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services, 8:15 am – 4:30 pm. Call 310 222 6860 to sign up.

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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