

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Child Safety Seat Recycling Project Kick-off

What: L.A. County Safety Seat Recycling Project kick-off

Where: TMC Horizon, Inc. recycling center, 1315 E. 4th Street, Pomona, California

Directions: From the I-10, exit Garey Ave and go south. Turn left onto Mission Blvd. Turn left on Reservoir Street. Turn right onto E. 4th Street.

When: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Media opportunities: recycling demonstrations, interviews with safety experts and recycling experts, information about safety seat distribution programs; photo opportunities (children, safety seats, community, recycling, and law enforcement volunteers)

TORRANCE, CA (September 6, 2012) A collaboration of safety organizations, a local police department, and a recycling center is resulting in ground-breaking efforts in Los Angeles County to get old, damaged child safety seats out of circulation and recycle the materials in a boost for the environment. Los Angeles County residents can bring child safety seats to TMC Horizon recycling center in Pomona, CA to reduce use of damaged or expired safety seats, thus improving protection for children.

“Our first priority is always safety,” said Sgt. Christian Hsu with Pomona Police Department. “For years, part of our community education on the proper use of child safety seats has included collecting seats that are unsafe for use and replacing them, whenever possible, with new child safety seats. We need to get the unsafe seats out of

circulation so there is no chance they will be used for another child. Announcing this during Child Passenger Safety Week seems very appropriate.”

The new child safety seat recycling project is the result of a true collaborative effort. Pomona Police Department received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to promote child safety seat use in the City of Pomona. They contracted with SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., the national nonprofit organization solely focused on child passenger safety, to help accomplish their objectives. TMC Horizon, Inc., the newest partner in this project, will take child safety seats at their recycling center and repurpose the materials. The entire team will refer those needing help to obtain new child safety seats to Los Angeles County child safety seat distribution programs.

“Recycling child safety seats is actually new territory,” said Tony Chang, owner of TMC Horizon. “We’ve never done it before, but if it means possibly saving a child’s life, of course, I want to help.” Child safety seats must first be disassembled and then sorted by like materials, such as metals and various types of plastic. The plastic parts will be crushed and then baled to send to other centers for further processing before they can be considered for repurposing. Because of the intensive labor involved in the initial breaking down of the child safety seats, Chang does not expect this project to generate any profit for his company, recently relocated to Pomona.

Removing old or damaged child safety seats from circulation is important. “Child safety seats should not be used if they are expired, over 10 years old, have been in a crash, or are damaged,” said Stephanie Tombrello, executive director of SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. Many child safety seats have a specific “expiration date” stamped onto them. Vehicle insurers are required to replace any child safety seat that has been in a vehicle

during a collision. Tens of thousands of child safety seats need to be taken out of circulation annually in Los Angeles County alone. Parents often call SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. to ask how to do this.

“Although our primary goal is always safety, if we can help divert even a portion of these child safety seats from ending up in the landfill, we can help the environment along the way,” said Sgt Hsu. “TMC is making that possible for us in this project – giving the idea of recycling child safety seats a chance.”

TMC Horizon will be accepting child safety seats for recycling during their normal business hours. Whether it’s one safety seat or a truckload, TMC will take the seat and make an effort to recycle its materials.

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, including training for those who work with children and a free safety seat checkup for families scheduled for 9/22/12 at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, call SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. at (310) 222-6860.

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