

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Safety Seat Checkup Day at the Jackie Robinson Community Center, Pasadena

What: Safety Seat Checkup

Where: Jackie Robinson Community Center, 1020 N Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena CA 91103

When: Saturday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Why: Car crashes kill hundreds of children each year and injure tens of thousands. Many die unnecessarily because 9 out of 10 kids are not buckled up correctly. Families will learn how to install their safety seats correctly, why children should ride rear facing until at least two years old, and why kids need booster seats until 10 – 12 years old.

ALTADENA, CA (March 15, 2019)—Parents are invited to ensure their children's safety by attending Safety Seat Checkup Day at Jackie Robinson Community Center on Saturday, April 6. Free safety seat inspections will be provided from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the community center parking lot.

Teams of nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and other trained volunteers will inspect each safety seat at the event to make sure it fits the child properly, is correctly installed, and is in the safest possible location in the vehicle. Older children will be invited to try the 5-Step Test to find out if they fit properly in a vehicle safety belt without a booster. Most children need a booster for proper belt fit until they are at least age 10 to 12. Since

1/1/17, California law has required children under 2 years old to ride rear facing if they are not 40 inches in height or 40 lbs. or more. SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. also recommends that children ride in the back seat, which is 40% safer than the front, until they are old enough to learn to drive.

At checkups last year organized by SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., more than 90% of the seats checked were used incorrectly, putting children at risk. Even well-educated, safety-conscious parents often make mistakes that can result in serious injuries to their children. According to the California Highway Patrol, more than 80% of the small children killed in car crashes would have survived if they had been properly buckled up.

Children and adults who have been saved by safety belts, safety seats, or helmets are invited to the 11:30 a.m. news conference so they can be recognized. Local lawmakers and other dignitaries are invited for the celebration and to present support for Safety Seat Checkup Week (March 31 – April 6, 2019).

During Special Enforcement Week (March 24 – March 30, 2019), law enforcement officers focus their efforts on writing tickets for children under eight riding in the front seat, unrestrained children, or infants riding forward facing. Special Enforcement Week is co-sponsored by the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County and SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

Sponsors for the April 6th event are California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Pomona Police Department, and Toyota Motor North America. Major supporters of the event are Jackie Robinson Community Center, Pasadena Police Department, and Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is the national non-profit organization solely dedicated to child passenger safety and was founded in 1980 by fifteen Los Angeles-area safety advocates. The organization is nationally recognized for technical expertise and program excellence. For more

information, go to www.carseat.org or call the Safe Ride Helpline: (310) 318-5111 or (800) 745-SAFE. For Spanish: (800) 747-SANO.

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