


Lifesavers 2015 – Chicago, IL
Occupant Protection for Children

“Curbside Law Enforcement Training Opportunities”

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The Four E's of Highway Safety

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Emergency Response

The Four E's of Highway Safety

- Engineering
- Education ✓
- Enforcement ✓
- Emergency Response

Reaching & Teaching LEOs

- Take advantage of their trained observation skills
- Frequent opportunities for educating families
- How to impart the basic level of knowledge?

Why is CPS important to LEOs?

- Duty is to protect families in their community – especially the most vulnerable
- People *expect* them to know about CPS
- People *expect* to be told when wrong
- Good PR for department & LE in general

Did you know?

- Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death and injury to children ages 3-13
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncjpcy/sdqsp/>
- Every 34 seconds a child under 13 is involved in a crash
<https://twitter.com/nhtsa/status/51079282005820544>
- In 2012 on average, nearly 2 children under the age of 13 were killed and 332 were injured every day while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans
NHTSA, 2012 crash data



Did you know?

- Over one third (37%) of the children killed in car crashes were not secured in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts

NHTSA, 2012 crash data

- 61% of crashes involving children occurred within 10 minutes of home

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Center for Injury Research and Prevention. Doolittle et al. 2008 Factors for Child Passenger Safety. Fact and Fraud Report. Data from 2007

- 85% occurred within 20 minutes of home

ibid

Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety Law

The Law

- All children from birth to age 4 must be secured in an approved car seat anywhere in the vehicle.
- All children age 4 up to age 8 must be secured in a seat belt system and an appropriate child booster seat anywhere in the vehicle.
- All children age 8 up to age 18 must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle.
- A CRS/Booster shall be used as designated by manufacturer and shall meet FMVSS.

Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety Law

Penalties

- 0 – 8 years old: Primary offense, \$75 fine plus \$38.50 court costs, \$10 EMS, \$10 Admin Fee, \$45 Surcharge = \$178.50
- 8 – 18 years old: Primary offense, \$10 fine plus \$10 EMS, \$10 Admin Fee, \$45 Surcharge = \$75
- Fine dismissed if person presents evidence of acquisition of approved CRS/booster.

AAP Best Practice Guidelines

- Rear-facing car seat – until 2 years old or reach maximum weight/height allowed by manufacturer
- Forward-facing car seat – as long as possible up to maximum weight/height limits allowed
- Booster seat – until seat belt fits properly, typically when child is 4'9" tall, between 8-12 years old
- Lap and shoulder seat belt – for life
- All in back seat until 13 years of age

<http://www.healthchildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seat-Information-for-Families.aspx> (Copyright 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics)

NHTSA Guidelines


<http://www.safercar.gov/parents/Right-Seat-Age-And-Size-Recommendations.html>

Why Rear-Facing So Long?


- Baby's head & spine are better protected RF
- If forward facing, crash forces cause head and neck to be thrown forward, stretching spinal cord

©2007 NHTSA CPS Course Curriculum, Chapter 10 Forward Facing Car Seats: 12 month old - rear and front facing. Courtesy of MCA Research


Rear-Facing Options



Infant only
Carrier and base



Convertible
RF to FF



3-in-1
Convertible
RF-FF-Booster

4-in-1 Convertible now available!


When do they “graduate” to next seat?

- Reach maximum height/weight limits for car seat
 - Some RF seats go up to 50 pounds maximum
- RF-head must not be within 1” of top of car seat


KEY POINTS FOR RF SEATS:

- Harness at or below shoulders
- Harness passes pinch test
- Chest clip is at armpit level
- Reclined to manuf. instructions, keep open airway
- Less than 1” movement side-to-side

Forward-facing options



RF to FF Convertible



FF to Booster
Combination

Also available: 3-in-1 and 4-in-1

When do they “graduate” to a booster seat?

- Reach maximum height/weight limits for harness
 - Some FF seats go up to 65 pounds or more
- FF-top of ears should not be above top of car seat

KEY POINTS FOR FF SEATS:

- Harness at or above the shoulders
- Harness passes pinch test
- Chest clip at armpit level
- Seat is in upright position
- Less than 1” movement side-to-side
- Top tether is correctly anchored

So what, if it's not right?



<http://www.iihs.org> published 4/12/12

Booster seats are important!



FF to Booster Combination



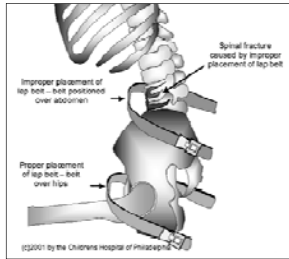
High-back Belt-positioning Booster



Backless Booster

Also: 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 seats

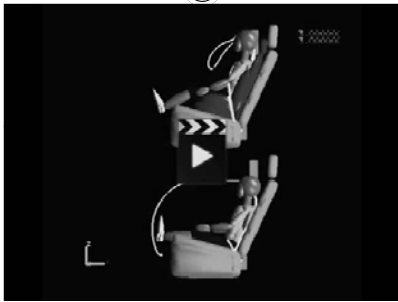
What's the big deal about a booster seat?



<http://www.foxweb.com/carsseatswithseats%20belt%20syndrome%20injury.jpg>

Seat Belt Syndrome

Booster vs Lap Belt



© 2001 The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute

When do they "graduate" to just a seat belt?

- Reach maximum height/weight limits on car seat
 - Some boosters go up to 120 pounds
- Reach 4'9" in height and can sit on seat properly

KEY POINTS FOR BOOSTER SEATS:

- Must have lap and shoulder belt
- Must have head/neck protection
- May or may not be secured with LATCH

What is proper seat belt fit?

Can sit all the way back against seat

Lap belt fits low and snug against hips, touching top of thighs



Shoulder belt crosses mid-chest and collarbone

Knees bend comfortably at seat edge, feet flat on floor

<https://www.govestimator.org/Child-Passenger-Safety-Vehicle-Safety-for-Your-8-12-Year-Old>

What is the “best” car seat?

- One that fits your child
- One that fits your vehicle
- One that you will be able to use correctly every time

- Ease-of-Use Ratings at www.nhtsa.gov
 - Labels
 - Instructions
 - Securing child in seat
 - Installing seat in vehicle

What about “used” car seats?

- Ever involved in a crash?
- Missing any pieces?
- Missing any labels?
- Expired by manufacturer’s instructions?
- All parts working properly?
- Instructions included?
- Any recalls issued?

- Look for Loaner Program instead

Things to check during traffic stop:



- Harness in proper slots for RF/FF
- Harness passes pinch test
- Harness chest clip at armpit level
- If it looks wrong...

Things to check during traffic stop:



- Side-to-side movement of seat less than 1"
- Correct angle for RF seat & upright for FF
- Installed using correct belt path for RF/FF
- LATCH only up to weight limit specified by manuf.
- LATCH or seat belt used, not both
- Top tether used on FF seat
- Rear seat up to 13 years old

Departmental Policy??



- What to do when encounter child in vehicle w/o car seat?
Or in an inappropriate seat?
- Write the ticket and send them on their way?
- Have someone deliver a car seat to your location?
- Follow them to nearest store to buy one? Can they afford one?
- Contact nearest Loaner Program or C&Y?
- Does your dept have seats for transporting children?
- Does your dept have a policy for transporting children?
- Know your resources....

Resources in Pennsylvania

- Traffic Injury Prevention Project
 - 1-800-CAR-BELT www.pakidstravelsafe.org
 - Locate Loaner Programs
 - Find a Car Seat Technician or Fitting Station
 - Materials/Handouts/Technical Assistance

Resources – Seats and/or Techs

- Local Safe Kids Coalition
www.safekids.org
- State or County Health & Human Services
- Children & Youth

Resources – Seats and/or Techs

- Hospital or Birthing Center
- Fire / EMS Squad
- Some Health Insurance Plans and Medicaid may provide seats in some instances

Online Resources

- <http://cert.safekids.org> "Find a Tech"
- iTunes "Car Seat Check" app by AAP
- American Academy of Pediatrics
 - www.healthychildren.org - information/videos
 - www.aap.org - find link to your state chapter
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 - www.nhtsa.gov - recalls, ratings, recommendations

Questions ???

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