



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Safe Community Coalition will hold a Child Passenger Safety Fitting Station
at the Lima Fire Department, Central Station, 433 S. Main Street
Tuesday, September 9 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Please call 419-228-1836 for an appointment. Drive ups are welcome!***

September 8, 2008 — Motor vehicle traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for every age 3 through 33. **September is Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Month. Ohio's child passenger safety law requires children to be in an approved child passenger safety seat until they are 4 years of age and over 40 pounds.** However, the primary goal this year is to remind all parents and other adults responsible for children traveling in motor vehicles -- if the kids are under 4'9" tall, they need to be in a booster seat. In addition, it is imperative to remember all children under age 13 should ride in the back seat.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers simply need to remember to follow the **4 Steps for Kids:**

1. Use rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least one year of age and at least 20 pounds;
2. Use forward-facing toddler seats in the back seat from age one and 20 pounds to about age four and 40 pounds;
3. Use booster seats in the back seat from about age four to at least age eight—unless the child is 4' 9" or taller; and
4. Use safety belts in the back seat at age eight or older and taller than 4' 9".

Many parents are under the false impression that children who have outgrown child safety seats can move right into regular safety belts, but nothing could be further from the truth. We are working hard to remind all parents, grandparents, and childcare providers to use a booster seat to raise their kids to the right height in the car. If they're under 4'9" tall, put them in a booster seat. Booster seats are the critical, but often forgotten step needed between car seats and regular safety belts. Raise your children right; if they're under 4'9", put them in a booster seat.

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