



NEWS RELEASE

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OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

OCPD SET TO PARTICIPATE IN "NATIONAL SEAT CHECK SATURDAY"

The Ocean City Police Department is teaming up with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by encouraging parents and caregivers to get their child safety seats inspected. On Saturday, September 20, 2008, the Ocean City Police Department will take part in "Seat Check Saturday" by providing on-site child safety seat inspections from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Public Safety Building.

"Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed in vehicles," commented Ocean City Police Chief Bernadette A. DiPino. "The reason that we are participating in National Seat Check Saturday is so that we can help reduce those statistics, and more importantly, assure that children are safely restrained during every trip."

According to research done by the NHTSA, 8,325 lives of children under age five have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 30 years. In addition, research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age eight, while seat belts provide the best protection after age eight.

For maximum child passenger safety, the NHTSA recommends the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines for determining which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size.

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belts in the back seat, if they fit properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week, a national effort to remind parents and caregivers of the lifesaving effect child safety seats have in protecting young children, please visit www.nhtsa.gov.

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Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococean.com