



09-36-C

For Immediate Release
September 10, 2009

www.buttecounty.net/publichealth

Phone:

(530) 895-6565- Chico
(530) 538-7583- Oroville

Fax:

(530) 891-2873- Chico
(530) 538-2164- Oroville

Mailing Address:

695 Oleander Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

PUBLIC HEALTH URGES PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS TO GET THEIR CHILD SAFETY SEATS INSPECTED

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — Motor vehicles are the leading cause of death for children age 3 to 6 and 8 to 14 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Nationally, in 2007, 6,532 passenger vehicle occupants 14 and younger were involved in fatal crashes.

That's why Butte County Public Health is urging all parents and caregivers to attend the "**National Seat Check Saturday**" event **on September 12, 2009**. As part of Child Passenger Safety Week (September 12-18) Butte County Public Health Kids in Safe Seats Coalition will have certified technicians available to provide on-site child safety seat inspections and education **at Toys R Us parking lot in Chico from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

"It's the responsibility of every parent and caregiver out there to make sure their children are safely restrained-every trip, every time," said Jean Ayers, Public Health Nurse. "We are urging everyone to get their child safety seats inspected. When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes." **See attached Safety Seat Fact Sheet for age/size specific guidelines.**

In 2007 national data indicates, among children under 5, an estimated 358 lives were saved from the use of child safety seats and booster seats. If all children under the age of 5 were restrained, an additional 71 children would have been saved.

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

###

For further information, contact Jean Ayers, Public Health Nurse:
Phone: (530) 891-3012, fax: (530) 891-2873, E-mail:
jayers@buttecounty.net.

PUBLIC HEALTH URGES PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS TO GET THEIR CHILD SAFETY SEATS INSPECTED— 2

Butte County Public Health Department

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual, community and environmental health.

Safety Seat Fact Sheet

Protect Your Child: Place Them in the Appropriate Child Safety Seat

4 Steps for Kids

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers should refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines for determining which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

- **Step 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.

- **Step 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).

- **Step 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).

- **Step 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). If the child does not fit the seatbelt, keep them in a booster seat until they do.

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

For more information contact Jean Ayers at 530-891-3012, e-mail to Jayers@buttecounty.net or go to www.nhtsa.gov for further safety seat facts.