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BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO HOLD “SEAT CHECK SATURDAY” EVENT IN CHICO

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — Given that local statistics show 75% of child safety seats are incorrectly installed, Butte County Public Health announced it will conduct a “National Seat Check Saturday” event on September 22 at the Toys R Us parking lot, 1919 East 20th Street, in Chico.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to check car seats for proper installation and advise parents and caregivers how to choose the right car seats and install them properly in their vehicles. The event, part of Butte County Public Health’s participation in Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept. 16-22), is free to the public.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13. Crash data from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates that each day in 2010, two children age 12 or younger were killed and another 325 were injured in passenger vehicles.

“You can never predict or control what other drivers might do or how the weather might change the safety of a roadway,” said Jean Ayers, Public Health Nurse. “The best way to protect your kids is to put them in the right car seats for their age and size and use those seats correctly on every trip, every time. Keeping kids in safe seats is every parent’s priority. By attending Butte County Public Health’s car seat event on National Seat Check Saturday, parents and caregivers can be sure their kids are riding as safely as possible.”

Ayers also urged parents to follow NHTSA’s car seat recommendations that parents and caregivers keep children in their restraint types for as long as possible according to manufacturer instructions before moving them to the next type. For maximum safety, a parent or caregiver should have the car seat installation inspected by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician to ensure their children are in the right seats for their age and size. Children under age 13 should ride in the back seat.

If you can’t attend a National Seat Check Saturday event, you don’t have to wait until next year to check if your car seat is properly installed. To locate a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician

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fitting station, go to <http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/nursing/seats.html> and download the Kids in Safe Seats 2012 list or call (530) 891-3012. This free service is available, by appointment, year-round.

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

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Butte County Public Health Department

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