

Child Passenger Safety Information Easy to Find with SEATCHECK

(NAPSA)—Car crashes are the number one killer of children. While not all vehicle crashes are survivable, many deaths and injuries can be prevented with the proper use of child safety seats. However, getting it right is not as easy as it seems.

“Ninety-seven percent of parents believe they always properly use and install their car seats,” said Chuck Hurley, vice president, Transportation Safety Group, National Safety Council (NSC). “Unfortunately, the truth is at least eight out of every ten children riding in child safety seats are not properly buckled in. Don’t take a chance. Have your child’s car seat inspected.”

Today, there are more than 3,000 sites nationwide where parents can go to get a free car seat inspection. Now finding the nearest location just got easier thanks to a new program called SEATCHECK. SEATCHECK is a comprehensive listing of child safety seat inspection locations and check-up events nationwide. It includes a toll-free hotline dedicated exclusively to directing parents to local car seat inspection resources (1-866-SEAT-CHECK or 1-866-732-8243). For those individuals who prefer to use the Internet, SEATCHECK includes a Web site, www.seatcheck.org, which complements the hotline. Both the hotline and Web site are available in both English and Spanish.

The Web site contains child passenger safety materials that are free, easily downloadable and may be used for educational purposes. In addition, the Web site allows child safety seat techni-

Safety seat inspectors list the following as the most common mistakes parents and caregivers make when restraining their children:

- Safety seat not tightly secured in vehicle (moves more than 1" at seat belt path)
- Harness straps too loose
- Safety seat facing the wrong direction in vehicle
- Seat belt not properly locked with locking clip, seat belt retractor or locking latch plate
- Safety seat recalled or involved in a crash
- Child not appropriate size and/or age for the safety seat
- Infant seat in the path of an air bag[Ⓢ]

cians and trainers to post information on upcoming SEATCHECK events.

SEATCHECK was launched in response to a survey of parents, which found that four out of ten parents and caregivers do not know how to find a child safety seat inspection location. The survey also found that use of a toll-free number is a parent’s first choice method to find child passenger safety information. With telephone access available in 94 percent of households, the hotline will give nearly every family access to this lifesaving resource.

SEATCHECK is sponsored by Chrysler Group. Supporting partners include the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the NSC, Graco Children’s Products Inc., and Lamaze™ International.