Ford Motor Company is introducing inflatable seat belts in the rear-seating positions of the next-generation Ford Explorer SUV, which goes into production next year. The seat belts are designed to deploy, in the event of a frontal or side impact crash, over the occupant’s torso and shoulder to help reduce pressure on the chest and help control head and neck motion. The increased diameter of the inflatable belt will spread crash forces over five times more area of the body.

Because 90% of those who trialed the inflatable seat belts found them to be similar to or more comfortable than a conventional seat belt, this could potentially increase seat belt usage for rear-seated passengers.

Representatives from NHTSA questioned the use of this new system with child restraints. Srinivasan Sundararaman, Ford’s Technical Leader for Biomechanics and Occupant Protection, responded by stating that “the system relies on two retractors - one for shoulder and one for the lap belt. So we will have sufficient webbing to accommodate the belt path. The inflatable portion is only from the buckle to the d-ring on the pillar. The inflatable belt will inflate only when the belt is buckled and currently there is no means of disabling the feature. The inflation is much slower than traditional airbag[s] and the bag pressure is very low, so we did not see any problem when we tested different type[s] of child seats - rear facing infant seat, forward facing convertible, high back and low back booster. We did not test all the child seats available since the child seat manufacturers keep changing the models every year.”

Once this innovative technology becomes available, refer to the child restraint instruction manual and the vehicle owner’s manual for final recommendations for use with child passengers.

For more information visit www.media.ford.com.
The Buckle Up Bug Visits the All Pro Dad Father & Kids Experience

The Automotive Safety Program and the Buckle Up Bug were honored to participate, with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, in the All Pro Dad Father & Kids Experience at the Indianapolis Colts practice facility on November 7th.

All Pro Dad Father & Kids Experience is a program that focuses on strengthening the bonds between fathers and their children and providing education through various activities on how to become an All Pro Dad.

Colts Head Coach Jim Caldwell, Assistant Coach Clyde Christensen and players Pierre Garcon and Eric Foster were present, as well as a variety of other speakers and 1600 participating parents and children.

For more information on All Pro Dad, visit www.AllProDad.com.

Tech Update

Towels or Mats Are Permitted by Some Manufacturers

Some manufacturers are now permitting the use of towels or mats under the child restraint to protect the vehicle seat. This change can be found in the manufacturer’s instructions in a variety of places such as “care and cleaning,” “general and warm weather use,” and “care and maintenance.” All manufacturers do not allow this change. Please read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions, even if you are familiar with the seat, since instructions are always changing.

Technician Occupant Protection Community Outreach Kit

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in conjunction with the National Child Passenger Safety Board, has developed an easily adaptable presentation module to encourage currently certified CPS Technicians to use their knowledge and skills to conduct community presentations about the importance of occupant protection. All currently certified Technicians and Instructors can gain access to the outreach kit and feedback form through their CPS online profiles on the Safe Kids CPS Certification website. A complete description of the outreach kit can be found at: http://www.cpsboard.org/techoutreach.htm.

Operation Kids – The Next Generation

Operation Kids – The Next Generation is a basic child passenger safety core curriculum for 2, 4, or 8 hour courses designed specifically for law enforcement, day care providers, nurses and other health care professionals. Any certified CPS Technician can teach this curriculum. The new curriculum will be available in the Spring of 2010.
White County Sheriff’s Department Receives Second Project L.O.V.E. Award

Congratulations to the White County Sheriff’s Department for receiving their second Project L.O.V.E. (Law Officer Voucher & Enforcement) award at the 15th annual OPO (Operation Pull Over) Awards Banquet held November 20th at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana. The award was presented to the Sheriff’s Department because they had distributed the most vouchers during the 2008-2009 grant year, with a 91% redemption rate.

Thank you to all of the law enforcement officers and agencies that participate in Project L.O.V.E.

If you are interested in learning more about Project L.O.V.E. please contact Marnita Louzon at 1.800.KID-N-CAR.

Product Update

Evenflo Symphony
The Evenflo Symphony, which has a forward-facing harness limit of 40 pounds, is being replaced by the Symphony 65, which has an increased forward-facing harness weight of 65 pounds. The original Evenflo Symphony will no longer be made.

Sunshine Kids Radian
The Radian 65, Radian 80, and Radian XT have been replaced by newer models. The newer Radian models are signified by SL, which stands for SuperLATCH, which is capable of being used to the maximum weight of the car seat. According to Sunshine Kids, SuperLATCH can be used to the car seats’ maximum weight limit as an installation method in vehicles manufactured after September 2005. Refer to the vehicle owner’s manual for vehicles manufactured prior to September 2005. The new models also provide a higher rear-facing weight limit. The current weight recommendations are as follows:

- Radian 65SL - Rear-faces to 40 pounds and forward-faces to 65 pounds.
- Radian 80SL and Radian XTSL (with adjustable headrest) - Rear-faces to 45 pounds and forward-faces to 80 pounds.

New Products

Britax Parkway SG Booster Seat
- Fits children 40-120 pounds
- Maximum height 63”
- Can be used as a highback or backless
- Color coded vehicle belt guide
- SecureGuard lap belt positioning device
- Retail price $119.99
- www.britaxusa.com

Combi Shuttle 33 Infant Seat
- Fits infants birth to 33 pounds
- Maximum height 33”
- Tru-Safe® Anti-Rebound Bar
- EZ Harness™ Height Adjustment System
- Retail price $179.99
- www.combi-intl.com
Evenflo Generations 65 Combination Seat
- Harness mode fits children 20-65 pounds
- Booster mode fits children 30-100 pounds
- 2 recline positions
- 3 harness slot positions
- 5 headrest positions
- 2 crotch strap positions
- Retail price $99.99
- www.evenflo.com

Evenflo Maestro Combination Seat
- Harness mode fits children 20-50 pounds
- Booster mode fits children 30-100 pounds
- 4 harness slot positions
- 2 crotch strap positions
- RightFit™ belt positioning system creates a snug fit over the hips and chest
- Retail price $79.99
- www.evenflo.com

Graco Nautilus Elite Combination Seat
- Harness mode fits children 20-65 pounds
- Highback booster mode fits children 30-100 pounds
- Backless booster mode fits children 40-100 pounds
- Two way adjustable headrest to change height and width
- 3 recline positions
- Built in lock-offs
- Retail price $199.99
- www.gracobaby.com

Evenflo Serenade Infant Seat
- Fits infants from 5-35 pounds
- Maximum height 32”
- SureLATCH® connectors
- Infinite Slide™ Harness Adjust
- Retail price $149.99
- www.evenflo.com

Recaro Como G2 Convertible Seat
- Rear-face from 5-35 pounds
- Forward-face from 20-70 pounds
- Maximum height 50”
- 5 harness slot positions
- 5 headrest positions
- Ventilation system
- Retail price $259.99
- www.recaro.com
**Recaro Signo G2 Convertible Seat**
- Rear-face from 5-35 pounds; forward-face from 20-70 pounds
- Maximum height 50”
- No rethread harness
- Infinite adjustable headrest
- LATCH bar design for ease in changing from rear-facing to forward-facing
- Ventilation system
- Retail price $299.99
- www.recaro.com

**Safety 1st Go Hybrid Booster Seat**
- Originally the IMMI SafeGuard Go Hybrid Booster
- Harness mode fits children to 22-65 pounds
- Backless booster mode fits children 40-100 pounds
- No rethread harness
- Unique folding design is ideal for travel
- Comes with convenient travel bag
- Retail price $199.99
- www.safety1st.com

**Safety 1st onBoard 35 Air Infant Seat**
- Fits infants 4-35 pounds
- Maximum height 32”
- Air Protect™ side impact technology
- Built in lock-offs
- 2 recline levels; one for smaller babies and one for larger babies
- Customizable insert and low harness slots
- Retail price $179.99
- www.safety1st.com

**Recalls**

**Evenflo** – Model: First Choice
- Manufactured January 16 through September 29, 2009 for Model # 3604098.
- A label containing certain contact and certification information was inadvertently left off these car seats.
- Contact Evenflo at 1-800-233-5921 for a set of replacement labels.

**Lerado** - Model: Mia Moda Viva and Viva Supreme
- Manufactured December 2006 through May 2009 for all Viva infant child restraints and bases models 5000 (seat), 5001 (base), 5050 (seat), 5051 (base), 5070 (seat), 5071 (base) and all Viva Supreme infant child restraints and bases models 5080 (seat) and 5081 (base).
- The harness splitter plate located on the rear of the seat has sharp edges which can cut the harness. Also, the base could crack in a crash.
- Mia Moda is urging parents/caregivers to discontinue use of the seat until it can be replaced.

**Nursing Contact Hours**

Nurses can now earn 26.83 contact hours for successfully completing the NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician Training Course. Pre-approval is required at least two weeks prior to the start of the class. This is effective immediately and is not retroactive for classes that have already been attended. For more information contact Jennifer Hacker at 1.800.543.6227 or jh230@iupui.edu.
Mark Your Calendar

NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician Training
January 16, 17, 23 & 24, 2010 – Bloomington Township Fire Department, Bloomington, IN
Cost - $75.00
Contact – Jennifer Hacker, 800.543.6227
jh230@iupui.edu

Child Passenger Safety Renewal Course
March 16, 2010 – Brownsburg Fire Territory Station #131, Brownsburg, IN
Cost - $75.00
Contact – Jennifer Hacker, 800.543.6227
Jh230@iupui.edu

Lifesavers Conference
April 11-April 13, 2010
Philadelphia Convention Center – Philadelphia, PA
National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities
www.lifesaversconference.org

Indiana Injury Prevention Conference and 14th Annual Child Safety Advocate Awards
May 13-14, 2010
University Place Conference Center and Hotel – Indianapolis, IN

6th Annual Kidz In Motion Conference
August 26-28, 2010
The Omni Fort Worth Hotel – Fort Worth, TX
National Conference Dedicated to Child Passenger Safety Professionals
www.kidzinmotion.org

National Seat Check Saturday
September 25, 2010

CPS Week
September 19 – 25, 2010

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