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AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

Indiana University School of Medicine

Winter Coats Can Compromise Safety

‘Tis the season for bulky winter coats and snowsuits! As the weather begins to chill, kids wear extra clothing, which can be dangerous when they are buckled into their child restraints. In the event of a crash, a winter coat or snowsuit could cause the straps to be too loose, increasing the chance the child could be injured or even ejected from their car seat.



Two children with their winter coats turned backward over the harness as recommended by NHTSA.

Photo courtesy of The Car Seat Lady — www.thecarseatlady.com

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) makes the following recommendation, “Ideally, dress your baby in thinner layers instead of a bulky coat or snowsuit, and tuck a blanket around your baby over the buckled harness straps if needed.” Please remember, this advice is not intended strictly for infants. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offers a statement similar to the AAP’s, “Bulky clothing or heavy coats can prevent a snug harness fit. Always buckle the child in the seat first, and then place coats or blankets over the harness.”

Here are a few statements taken directly from child restraint manufacturer instruction manuals:

Baby Trend – “Do not dress your child in bulky clothing or other garments that will hinder the harness from being snug around your baby and properly latched between your child’s legs.”

Chicco – “NEVER secure child in carrier with child dressed in bulky garments or heavy clothing. Heavy clothing can prevent harness from being properly tightened around child. To keep child warm, place a blanket over child AFTER you have properly secured and tightened harness around your child.”

Evenflo – “In cold weather, DO NOT dress the child in bulky clothing like snowsuits if the child is riding in a child restraint. This clothing makes it difficult to properly tighten the harness to the child, which may allow the child to be ejected from the restraint during a crash.”

All Pro Dad Father & Kids Experience

The Automotive Safety Program and the Buckle-Up Bug joined the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute at this year's *All Pro Dad Father & Kids Experience* at the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center on September 3rd. The afternoon was filled with fun and excitement as over 1,500 participants enjoyed fun zone activities, football drills, presentations on take-home fatherhood tips, including those on buckling up properly and no texting while driving.

Indianapolis Colts Quarterback Coach Clyde Christensen was among the speakers, as well as player Joe Reitz who was joined by his daughter.

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

Permanent Fitting Station (PFS) Quarterly Activity

During the fourth quarter (July – September) of the 2011-2012 grant year, Indiana's network of permanent fitting stations reported a total of 2,620 inspections and distributed 893 car seats to children in need. In addition, 107 Project L.O.V.E. vouchers were redeemed.

Thanks to all those involved, a total of 9,082 inspections were completed through our network of permanent fitting stations during the 2011-2012 grant year!

New Permanent Fitting Stations

Please join us in welcoming the following new sites to Indiana's network of permanent fitting stations:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| • Family Service Association | Howard County | Coordinated by Barb Hilton |
| • LaPorte Fire Department | LaPorte County | Coordinated by Brian Gray |
| • Southport Police Department | Marion County | Coordinated by Lt. Robert Cole |
| • Newton County Health Department | Newton County | Coordinated by Nancy Miller |

Visit <http://www.preventinjury.org/fittingStation.asp> for a complete listing of Indiana's permanent fitting stations.

Please contact Marnita Louzon at mlouzon@iupui.edu or 1.800.543.6227 if you are interested in establishing a permanent fitting station.

NEW BOOSTER SEAT RATINGS FROM THE IIHS

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) released their 2012 booster seat findings on seat belt fit. Of the 17 booster seats introduced this year, 15 earned the top rating of “BEST BET” from the IIHS. This indicates manufacturers are designing seats to provide good safety belt fit for booster-age children. The three categories include:

BEST BET – Boosters that correctly position belts on a typical 4-to-8-year-old child in almost any car, minivan or SUV.

GOOD BET – Boosters that provide acceptable belt fit in most vehicles.

CHECK FIT – Boosters that may provide good fit for some children in some vehicles, but not as many as **BEST BET** or **GOOD BET**.

NOT RECOMMENDED – Boosters that do not provide proper belt fit. Consumers are advised to avoid them.

This study showed that “BEST BET” boosters outnumbered seats in any of the three other categories for the first time since this study was released in 2008. “Booster manufacturers have risen to the Institute’s challenge to improve seat design, giving parents more choices than ever when shopping for a booster that will provide a good, safe fit for their children,” says Anne McCartt, Institute senior vice president for research. Overall, there were forty-seven (47) “BEST BET” boosters for 2012, five (5) “GOOD BET,” thirty-seven (37) “CHECK FIT” and two (2) “NOT RECOMMENDED;” totaling ninety-one (91) booster seats rated. The focus of this study was on belt fit, not crash testing. To assess belt fit, engineers at the Institute used a 6-year old test dummy of average size. To learn more about this study and to see which booster seats landed in each category, visit <http://www.iihs.org>.

CONTINUE TO BUCKLE UP — IT’S STILL SAVING LIVES

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) National Center for Statistics and Analysis released their Traffic Safety Facts in November on the overall results of seat belt use in 2012. The data showed that seat belt use reached 86 percent in 2012, up from 84 percent in 2011. In the Midwest, the seat belt usage was at 85 percent in 2012 compared to 83 percent in 2011. This information was taken from the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), which is the only survey that provides nationwide probability-based observed data on seat belt use in the United States. The study was conducted by trained observers at randomly selected roadway sites throughout the U.S. Passenger vehicles were observed between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Observations were made either while standing on the roadside, or in the case of expressways, while riding in a vehicle.

According to the NHTSA’s Traffic Safety Facts: 2010 Data, research found that when lap/shoulder belts were used, they reduced the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent. Seat belts saved an estimated 12,546 lives in 2010. You can find more information at www.nhtsa.gov.

CDC PUTS FOCUS ON CHILD INJURY PREVENTION

On October 19th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released their Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) concerning years of potential life lost (YPLL) from unintentional injuries of children aged 0-19 years in the United States from 2000-2009. According to the study, unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among persons aged 0-19 years in the United States. There are approximately 12,000 deaths each year due to unintentional injury and another 9 million young persons are treated for nonfatal injuries in emergency departments. The leading causes of child injury include motor vehicle crashes, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires and falls.

The study reviewed death certificates for those injured in each state and nationally. The YPLL was calculated by subtracting the age at death from 75, showing the loss of potential years, and reported by state and nationally, by age, ethnicity and injury mechanism. The data showed that 115,613 deaths or about 1,000 per month were due to injury. Of these numbers, it showed males were double the risk as females and motor vehicle related injuries remain number one for those 19 years and younger.

The CDC developed the *National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention* to attempt to spark action across the nation to reduce child injury. The overall goals of the action plan are to:

- **Raise awareness** about the problem of child injury and the effects on our nation.
- **Highlight prevention solutions** by uniting stakeholders around a common set of goals and strategies.
- **Mobilize action** on a national, coordinated effort to reduce child injury.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov. You can download the *National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention* at http://www.cdc.gov/safechild/pdf/National_Action_Plan_for_Child_Injury_Prevention.pdf.

MERCEDES-BENZ INTRODUCES THEIR VERSION OF THE INFLATABLE SEAT BELT

Early 2013, Mercedes-Benz will debut its “Beltbag,” an inflatable restraint system in the next S-Class. This restraint is designed to reduce injury to rear-seated passengers in frontal impact collisions. When sufficient force is detected in a frontal impact crash, a gas generator inflates the shoulder belt to nearly three times its original width, which in turn will reduce chest forces. This seat belt works much like the inflatable seat belt that can be found in Ford and Lexus vehicles; however, the Mercedes-Benz beltbag only works with frontal impact collisions whereas Ford’s inflatable seat belts are triggered by both frontal and side impact crashes. Mercedes says the front seat airbags are sufficient; therefore, the beltbag is not being considered for front-seat occupants. It is currently unclear how the beltbag will affect child restraints.

This and That!

Safe Ride News is accepting pre-orders for the 2013 LATCH Manual, to be delivered in January. You can order your LATCH Manual by visiting <http://www.saferidenews.com/srndnn/> and clicking on “Catalog/Order Form” on the left side of the page. Nancy Beaumont from Safe Ride News would love to see a photo of your tattered, personalized, old LATCH manuals with details on what you love about your manual. She can be reached at nancy@saferidenews.com.

Children’s Safety Network has updated their resource guide on child passenger safety. The guide contains data, research articles, updates on policy and legislation, evidence-based prevention strategies, tools for program planning and a list of national organizations that address child passenger safety. You can find this excellent resource at http://www.childrendefsafetynetwork.org/sites/childrendefsafetynetwork.org/files/ChildPassenger_ResourceGuide2012.pdf.

Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (MACPS) as they provide important information concerning the child passenger safety field. The MACPS has 15 members from various CR companies. Currently, they are offering a CPS educational grant. The application is due by Jan. 15, 2013 and can be found at <http://www.saferidenews.com/srndnn/CPSTsProfessionals/ManufacturersAllianceforCPS/tabid/352/Default.aspx>. By visiting this site, you can also find information on CR usage statements from MACPS, as well as the 2013 calendar of CPS events nationally, regionally and statewide.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released a new mobile App to help parents ensure their kids are buckled up as securely as possible on every trip. The App can be downloaded at www.itunes.apple.com.

Parents Central, the website from NHTSA dedicated to “keeping kids safe,” now has Spanish content on its site. You can find this information at <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/carseats.htm> by selecting the “ASIENTOS DE SEGURIDAD” tab and you will be directed to the Spanish page.

According to *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A., another near-death strangulation took place in New York in October, due to a safety belt with a switchable retractor getting wrapped around the neck of a child. The boy had 8 layers of belt around his neck when officers were able to save his life with a pocket knife. If you do not have *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A.’s flyer on seat belt entanglement, you can print it off by visiting http://www.carseat.org/Resources/646_L-S_belt_warning.pdf. This is a great resource to include in packets of information given to parents/caregivers.

You have a new opportunity to earn 1 CEU by completing the following quiz, “New Technologies in Occupant Protection with an Emphasis on Vehicle Technology Online Session” on the Safe Kids website at www.safekidswebinars.org.

As of November 5, 2012, the total number of U.S. hyperthermia (heat stroke) deaths of children left in cars was 29, including the death of a 3-month old child left in a hot car in Greenfield, IN. From 1998-present, a total of 556 deaths were due to hyperthermia in the United States. You can find detailed information concerning this issue at <http://ggweather.com/heat/>.

This and That! (cont')

Spanish instructions are available for the Hippo car seat and can be found at http://www.snugseat.com/Files/filer/manuals/Hippo_Manual_Spanish.pdf. You can also visit www.snugseat.com and click on “manuals & instructions” on the right side of the page.

Children’s Safety Network released an infographic on child passenger safety, which includes information on child traffic fatalities, child safety restraints, cost benefit of prevention programs and legislation. The infographic can be found at: <http://www.childrensafetynetwork.org/sites/childrensafetynetwork.org/files/ChildPassSafety2012.pdf>

Research in Action, a newsletter by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Research Institute, will become a blog in early 2013. The blog will provide more news and commentary about various pediatric injury prevention topics to include child passenger safety, teen driver safety, violence prevention, recovery from injury and traumatic stress and public policy. To sign up for the *Research in Action* newsletter, visit <http://www.research.chop.edu/programs/injury/newsletter/index.php> and provide your contact information.

If you are not a member of the CPSPList, we recommend you join this child passenger safety forum. The List is a professional discussion forum for CPS Practitioners and Advocates to discuss and share information relevant to child safety in and around vehicles. To subscribe, visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/CPSPList/> with a Yahoo ID.

In November, the List of Recalls and Replacement Parts for Child Restraints from *SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A. was updated. The new list can be viewed at <http://www.carseat.org/Recalls/179NP.pdf>.

Abstracts are being accepted for the 9th Annual KIDZ IN MOTION (KIM) Conference. The 2013 conference will be held in Santa Ana Pueblo (Albuquerque), New Mexico, Aug. 27-29. The form needs to be submitted online at www.kidzinmotion.org by February 15, 2013. If you have any questions, contact kimconf@hiwaay.net.

Graco is updating their car seat handle requirements for usage in the car for all rear-facing only child restraints. They now allow the use of the handle in any locked position on Graco Infant SafeSeat, SnugRide 22, SnugRide 30, SnugRide 32, SnugRide 35 and the new SnugRide Click Connect 40. This is retroactive. The change does not apply in Canada, where the handle must always be used in the locked upright position.

Safe Kids is looking for secret shoppers to contact their customer service department to help them identify what is working well and what needs improvement in terms of the customer service provided. If you are interested in being a secret shopper, you can contact Kerry Chausmer at kchausmer@safekids.org.

NEW PRODUCTS

Britax Highway 65 Convertible

- Rear-facing: 5-40 lbs., 48 inches or less
- Forward-facing: Up to 65 lbs.
- Side impact protection
- Harness Ultra Guide System (HUGS)
- Rear and forward-facing recline
- Two buckle positions
- Built-in lock-offs
- Certified for aircraft travel
- MSRP: \$249.99
- www.britaxusa.com



Safety 1st Able Convertible

- Rear-facing: 5-40 lbs.
- Forward facing: 22-65 lbs.
- QuickFit no rethread harness system
- 3-position reclining base
- 5-point harness with center front adjust
- 5 harness heights
- Lumbar body pillows
- MSRP: \$149.99
- www.djgusa.com



NEW PRODUCTS (CONT')

Eddie Bauer Sport Convertible

- Rear-facing: 5-40 lbs.
- Forward-facing: 22-40 lbs.
- Side impact protection
- 5-point center front adjust harness
- Adjustable comfort pillows
- Infant body insert
- Certified for aircraft travel
- MSRP: \$79.99
- www.djgusa.com



RECALLS

Evenflo – Models: Big Kid® booster seats, 30911173AD, 3091967AD, 30911118AD and 30911120D

Shipped between August 6, 2012 and September 18, 2012
Fail to conform to FMVSS 213 “Child Restraint Systems”

Subject seats were originally manufactured solely for purposes of retail display and not to be sold at retail.

Therefore, the seats were packaged without the instruction manual or the required registration card.

However, the seats were inadvertently shipped to Evenflo’s institutional customers (i.e. hospitals, government agencies) to be given to families.

None of the affected units were sold at retail stores.

Without the instruction manual the seat may be used improperly. Should the owner not file a registration with the child seat manufacturer due to lack of information on how to do so, they may not be notified of a safety recall. Either condition puts the child at an increased risk of possible injury in the event of a crash.

The affected seats have a label stating: “DISPLAY ONLY – NOT INTENDED FOR SALE,” located on the back of the booster seat headrest.



(Continued on next page)

RECALLS (CONT')

(continued from previous page)

Evenflo will mail owners who have received an affected Big Kid booster seat a remedy kit that includes a consumer registration card, an instruction manual, and an overlabel to cover the current label stating: "DISPLAY ONLY – NOT INTENDED FOR SALE."

The remedy kit will be provided free of charge. Notification began early in October, 2012.

Owners may contact Evenflo at 1-800-233-5921 or at safety.evenflo.com.

If owner believes that Evenflo has failed or is unable to remedy the noncompliance without charge within a reasonable time, they can contact the following: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20590, call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or visit <http://www.safercar.gov>.



Britax Advocate 70-G3



Britax Boulevard 70-G3



Britax Pavilion 70-G3

Britax – Models:

Advocate 70-G3 E9LG81A, E9LG83N, E9LG83P, E9LG83X, E9LG83Y, E9LL21A, E9LL23P, E9LL23Y

Boulevard 70-G3 E9LJ91A, E9LJ91M, E9LJ91S, E9LJ92E, E9LJ93P, E9LJ93S, E9LK91A

Pavilion 70-G3 E9LK31A, E9LK31Q, E9LK32D, E9LK32Z, E9LK33Q, E9LL11A, E9LL11Q, E9LL12D, E9LL12Z

Manufactured: June, 2012 through August, 2012

These seats were manufactured with a softer chest pad material that may be bitten or chewed into pieces by a child using the seat. If the child bites off a piece of the softer pad, it could be a choking hazard, resulting in injury or death.

Britax will provide owners with replacement HUGS pads that are made from a firmer material and instructions on how to replace the pads free of charge.

To view a video on how to remove and replace the HUGS chest pads, visit:

www.BritaxUSA.com/support/safety-notice and select the product from the menu on the right side.

Owners may remove the HUGS pads and continue using the seat until replacement pads are received.

The safety recall is expected to begin shortly. Owners may contact Britax Customer Service Department at 1-888-427-4829 with questions or to request replacement pads in the event their restraint is not already registered with Britax.

Mark Your Calendar

NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician Training

January 31 – February 1 / February 7-8, 2013
Rushville Police Department
Rushville, IN
Cost: \$75
Contact: Stephanie Martindale - (317) 852-1190
smartindale@brownburgfire.org

2013 Lifesavers Conference

April 14-16, 2013
Colorado Convention Center
Denver, CO
National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities
www.lifesaversconference.org

Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs

April 12-13, 2013
Denver, CO (Exact Location TBD)
Cost - \$200.00
Contact: Bryanna Grant - (800) 755-0912
blawler@iuhealth.org
www.preventinjury.org

2013 Indiana Injury Prevention Conference and 17th Annual Child Safety Advocate Awards

June 6-7, 2013
The Alexander Hotel
Indianapolis, IN
Cost - \$100.00
Contact: Judith Talty - (800) 543-6227
jtalty@iu.edu
www.preventinjury.org

9th Annual Kidz In Motion (KIM) Conference

August 27-29, 2013
Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa
Albuquerque, NM
National Conference Dedicated to
Child Passenger Safety Professionals
www.kidzinmotion.org

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION, NEWS AND OPINIONS ON AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY

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