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Local child seat check events scheduled across Oklahoma **National Child Passenger Safety Week Sept. 18-24;** **“Seat Check Saturday” Sept. 24**

(OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.) – A number of free car seat events will take place across the state during National Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 18-24, and officials from the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office are urging parents and caregivers to take part.

To find a schedule of seat check events across Oklahoma, visit the OHSO Web site at www.ohso.ok.gov .

“It’s the responsibility of anyone who drives a vehicle to make sure children are properly and safely restrained,” said Sabrina Mackey, OHSO spokesperson. “We are urging parents, caregivers and anyone who drives with a child in their vehicle to get their child safety seats inspected during this special week.”

Technicians will be on hand at each event to make sure safety seats and booster seats are properly installed. For a child safety seat to do its job correctly, it must be appropriate for the child’s age and size, installed properly in the vehicle, and adjusted to fit the child securely.

Child passenger safety is a crucial issue for Oklahomans, Mackey added. A July 2011 statewide survey shows an 82.6 percent child restraint usage rate during the past year.

“This is an area of concern,” Mackey said. “Drivers need to make sure they have the proper seats and that they are correctly installed in order to keep these little ones safe in the car.”

Mackey added that the study shows a direct correlation between adult seat belt use and child restraint use.

“We are genuinely concerned for the health and safety of all Oklahomans,” Mackey said. “When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes. National Child Passenger Safety Week is the perfect opportunity for parents and caregivers to make sure children, as well as adults, are safe in their vehicles.”

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 3 and 14. An estimated 8,959 lives were saved by child restraints between 1975 and 2008.

To learn more about child passenger safety and 2011 Child Passenger Safety Week events, visit www.ohso.ok.gov or www.nhtsa.gov.

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