

Release for Week of June 17, 2013

CHILD SAFETY SEAT LAW

Robert Sell, Dodge County Highway Safety Coordinator, stated that in a recent horrific crash that resulted in serious injuries and two fatalities, an unrestrained child was totally ejected from the vehicle along with other unbelted adults.

Sell notes that the most common causes of death and injuries to children in vehicle crashes are:

- Being thrown into the windshield, dashboard, some other part of the car or into another passenger;
- Being crushed by adults who are not wearing safety belts;
- Being thrown from the car.

In basic terms:

- Children must be in a car seat until they reach age 4 and 40 pounds and in a booster seat until they reach age 8, more than 80 pounds in weight or more than ft. in. tall.
- Tiered structure applies:
 - Less than 1 year old or less than 20 lbs. must be in a rear-facing child seat in the backseat (if so equipped)
 - If at least one year old and 20 pounds but less than four years old or less than 40 pounds, must be in a forward or rear facing child seat in the back seat (if so equipped)
 - Age 4 to age 8 and between 40-80 lbs. and no more than 4 ft. 9 in. must be in a forward or rear facing child seat in the backseat (if so equipped) or a booster seat
- Penalty for non-compliance depends on the age of the child
 - If less than four years of age, the total penalty is \$175.30
 - If between ages 4 and 8, the total penalty is \$150.10 for the first offense, \$200.50 for a second offense and \$263.50 for third and subsequent offenses
- There are no exemptions from these rules allowing removal of a child from a restraint to attend to personal needs (such as feeding or diapering)
- A child who, because of a medical condition, body size or a physical disability is incapable of being transported in a child safety restraint system, may be transported without a safety restraint system with physician approval

Specific questions about child seats/booster seats can be directed to:

WINS (Wisconsin Information Network for Safety)

(1-866) 511-9467

“Learning to buckle up is the first of many good safety habits children should learn from their parents. Care enough to place your infants and small children in child safety seats; teach your older children to buckle up and buckle up yourself ... for their sake,” Sell said.

