

Safe Kids Gallatin County Urges Parents and Caregivers to Get Their Child Safety Seats Inspected

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age 3 to 6 and 8 to 14. In 2007, 6,532 passenger vehicle occupants 14 and younger were involved in fatal crashes. That's why Safe Kids Gallatin County is urging all parents and caregivers to attend clinics on September 10th and 17th as part of Child Passenger Safety Week (September 12-18). Certified technicians will be available to provide on-site child safety seat inspections and education on:



September 10th at Bozeman Fire Station One, 10 am to 2 pm

September 14th at Central Valley Fire (Belgrade), 12 pm to 2 pm

September 17th at Livingston Fire Rescue, 11 am to 2 pm

For maximum child passenger safety, refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines for determining which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belts in the back seat, if they fit properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).



Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/cps

Firearms, Why Kids Are at Risk

Some parents think their children aren't at risk because they don't own guns. Other parents think their kids are safe because they *do* own guns and the kids know "the rules." The truth is, *all* children are potentially at risk of unintentional firearm injury. However, knowing how and why injuries occur, and taking action, can substantially reduce that risk.

Nearly all childhood unintentional shooting deaths occur in or around the home. Half occur in the home of the victim, and nearly 40 percent occur at a friend or relative's house. Most of these deaths involve guns that have been kept loaded and accessible to children and occur when children play with loaded guns. In one recent study of parents of children ages 4 to 12, more than half reported storing a firearm loaded or unlocked in their home. An estimated 3.3 million children in the United States live in house-

holds with firearms that are always or sometimes kept loaded and unloaded.



Free Gun Locks Available

For a limited time, Safe Kids Gallatin County will be distributing free gun locks to interested people in the community. Montana has the highest rate of suicide in the nation and nearly two-thirds of those suicides are by firearms. In addition, every childhood accidental shooting injury has one common denominator, access to a loaded firearm. The most important thing parents, caregivers and gun owners can do to protect children is reduce their access to firearms and safely store all guns. For those individuals interested in receiving a free gun lock, please contact Stacy Wesen at Child Care Connections, 587-7786 or stacy@childcareconnections.info.

Car Seat Check Up Events and Fitting Stations



If you are unable to attend a check up event, you may call the following certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians for individual appointments*:

Jason Wheeler @ Central Valley Fire in Belgrade, 388-4480

Davey Haglund @ Starting Small Pre-school in Belgrade, 388-9213

Jessi Malcolm @ Livingston Fire, 223-1991

Scott Mueller @ Bozeman Fire Department, Station 1, 582-2350

Stacy Wesen @ Child Care Connections in Bozeman, 587-7786

Pat McLaughlin @ Montana Highway Patrol, 388-3190

***Please note that due to the nature of our schedules, we are unable to accommodate parents & caregivers without an appointment. Thank you for your understanding.**



The following car seat check up events are available for families and caregivers:

September 10th, October 8th &

November 12th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Bozeman Fire Station 1, 34 North Rouse from 10 am—2 pm. Please call Stacy @ 587-7786 for more information.

September 18th, October 16th & November 20th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Livingston Fire Rescue, 414 East Callander from 11 am—2 pm. Please call Jessi @ 223-1991 for more information.



Montana Buckle Up Laws

If a child under 6 years of age and weighing less than 60 pounds is a passenger in a motor vehicle, that motor vehicle must be equipped with one child safety restraint for each child in the vehicle and each child must be properly restrained.

All other occupants must be properly buckled up in a safety belt.

Safe & Alive

Disarming Montana's Biggest Killer

Get The Facts On Montana's Biggest Killer: Motor Vehicle Crash Injury

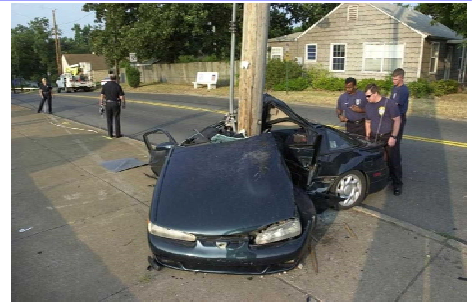
This presentation of facts empowers Montanans to make the right personal, parental and policy choices. Using statistics and studies from the Montana Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and other credible sources, it shows and tells the facts about death and injury on Montana roadways.

To provide a better understanding of issues that touch Montanans everyday, our Buckle Up Greater Gallatin Coalition will be delivering the presentation across the county, helping to educate people throughout the community.



An online video version of the presentation is also available to supplement the community deliveries and discussions. The 16 minute video is narrated by its developers and includes graphics, videos and facts that paint a clear picture of Montana deaths and injuries, as well as ways to prevent or reduce them. View the video presentation online: www.hmhb-mt.org

If you would like us to offer the presentation at our place of business, please contact Stacy at Child Care Connections, 587-7786.



Cribs For Kids

To reduce the risk of SIDS and accidental suffocation, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Cribs for Kids, Safe Kids USA and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that infants sleep on the backs on a firm mattress in a safety-approved crib, with no exposure to cigarette smoke, and with a room temperature that is comfortable to adults.

Since 1998, the National Cribs for Kids Campaign, has provided cribs and educational materials about way ways to reduce the risk of SIDS and accidental suffocation to families throughout the United States thanks to the generosity of foundations, corporations, special event fundraisers, and partnerships with Graco Children's Products and Pitt Ohio Express.

Safe Kids Gallatin County is proud to announce our intent to become a participant in the **Cribs for Kids** program. The core purpose of this program is to reduce infant deaths by providing an appropriate sleep environment through education and safe cribs. Contact Stacy at Child Care Connections, 587-7786 for more information about this program.



Guidelines for Parents and Caregivers...

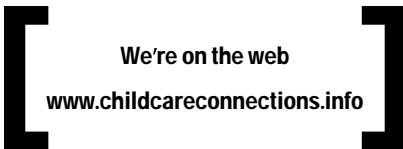
- The safest way for your baby to sleep is on its back, alone in a crib.
- The baby's crib should be in the parent's room, if possible. It should have a firm mattress that is closely fitted to the sides of the crib, and a tight-fitting sheet.
- Don't over-dress or over-bundle the baby. One light cover, tucked at the bottom and sides of the crib should be enough. Allow no covers near the baby's head. Use no pillow, bumpers, or toys.
- Never let a baby fall asleep in a bed or chair with someone who is smoking, is tired or ill, has taken medications that cause drowsiness, or is extremely overweight.
- A baby should sleep in a smoke-free home.
- Breastfeeding has important health benefits for babies, but do it safely. When breastfeeding, make sure you are in a position that will allow you to stay awake. When finished, return the baby to the crib.
- After breastfeeding is firmly established consider offering your baby a pacifier at naptime and nighttime.



BUCKLE UP GREATER GALLATIN

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Stacy Wesen
Buckle Up/Safe Kids Coordinator



Safe Kids Gallatin County is one of more than 300 grassroots coalitions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families. Safe Kids Gallatin County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury.



Safe Kids Worldwide
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Suite 1000
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Tel 202-662-0600
Fax 202-393-2072
www.safekids.org

Buckle Up Greater Gallatin Coalition Partners

Adolescent Resource Center
American Medical Response
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
Bozeman Fire Department
Bozeman Police Department
Bozeman Public Schools
Central Valley Fire District
Color World Printers
Davey Haglund, Belgrade
Gallatin City-County Health Dept.
Gallatin Community Clinic
Gallatin County DUI Task Force
Gallatin County Sheriff's Dept.

GapWest Broadcasting
Jessi Malcolm, Livingston
Livingston Fire Rescue
Montana Highway Patrol
MSU Police
MSU Native American Studies
Ressler Chevrolet
The Billion Auto Group

Safe Kids/Buckle Up Advisory Committee:
Scott Mueller, Bozeman Fire Department
Marilyn King, Bozeman Public Schools
Shanda Smith, Gallatin City-County Health Department
Buck Taylor, Gallatin Community Clinic
Pat McLaughlin, Montana Highway Patrol

