

Child Passenger Safety Program

Your Contra Costa County Firefighters have instituted a Child Passenger Safety 1-year pilot program, which offers free child seat check-ups and inspections for families residing in Contra Costa County. We are excited to add another much needed service to the communities we serve. We are able to provide this new service by joining the John Muir Health Child Safety Coalition; a group of local organizations committed to child safety. This group works together throughout Contra Costa County to offer car seat check-ups and inspections in different locations with various scheduling options for the public.

Since properly securing every child passenger is California State Law, neighborhood fire stations across the State have been receiving requests for help to ensure safe installation of child passenger seats. To do this, a National Certification is required to become a "Child Passenger Safety Technician" or **CPST**. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's pilot program will commence with 7 firefighters who have obtained the CPST 2 year certification. Certification requires 40 hours of classroom and hands on instruction, culminating with each student needing to properly perform a series of different types of installations and inspections all performed under the watchful eye of a master instructor.

Our pilot program, which will run from August 2011 to August 2012, is currently offering two fire station locations for the public to schedule appointments short notice (see below). Additionally, quarterly we will offer pre-scheduled appoints at various fire stations, which will be announced a month in advance. These will be limited to 6 appointments each during a three hour window. **Please note: fire crews are always on duty and may be called to an emergency at any point in the service. In this case the firefighter who is working with you will contact you when they return to the station and finish the inspection, reschedule, or refer you to another coalition agency.* Finally, we will host an Annual Car Seat Event for drop-in inspections. This event will provide uninterrupted service and at least one technician for each vehicle.

For all inspections please allow at least 30-60 minutes for each child seat.

In a time when this program is being cut from other public safety agencies budgets, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District sees the importance and peace of mind this service provides to new families. We are hopeful that we can continue to provide this service in the future at no cost to the public.

To schedule an appointment you can either call the hotline at (925)941-3326 or email us at childcarseat@cccfpd.org. We will check for messages daily and will get back to you usually within 24 hours to set a time and location that works best for you.

Hotline # (925)-941-3326

Email: childcarseat@cccfpd.org

Note – drop in appointments at our two fire stations below are not recommended, however may be possible

Fire Station #9 – 209 Center Avenue, Pacheco, 94553

Fire Station #84 – 1903 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg, 94565