BLUE VALLEY TIME

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Keeping Kids Safe in the Car

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - As National Child Passenger Safety Week draws to a close, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania State Police are reminding parents and caregivers of the importance of properly restraining children in vehicles.

The Commonwealth's primary seat belt law requires all vehicle occupants younger than 18 to wear a seat belt when riding anywhere in a vehicle. Children under the age of 2 must be secured in a rear-facing car seat, and children under the age of 4 must be restrained in an approved child safety seat. Children must ride in a booster seat until their eighth birthday. Parents are also reminded that due to potential dangers associated with air bag deployment, children 12 and younger should always ride buckled in a vehicle's back seat.

The Pennsylvania Traffic Injury Prevention Project (PA TIPP) also offers the following tips:

- Select a car seat that is right for the child's age and size.
- Fill out and return the registration card for your seat so you'll know if it is recalled because of a problem.
- Read and follow the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual for information on correctly installing the car seat in the vehicle.
- Use the car's seat belt or the LATCH system when installing the car seat.
- Make sure the car seat's harness is correctly adjusted and fits snugly.
- Use a tether strap when installing a forward-facing car seat, following manufacturer's instructions.

For more information on child passenger safety, visit PennDOT's Safety Page at https://www.penndot.gov/TraveIInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/Pages/Child-Passenger-Safety.aspx.

Ann Flood Senior Expo Friday, October 1, 2021 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Plainfield Township Fire Hall



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