



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 10th, 2010

To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

Re: Nanaimo Fire Rescue Child Passenger Safety Program – Free Education Clinics

Car crashes are the leading cause of accidental death among children in British Columbia. Each year in BC over 1,300 children under the age of nine, which is equivalent to five elementary schools, are injured or killed in motor vehicle collisions. The proper use of car safety seats can greatly increase the chances of preventing injuries and surviving a motor vehicle collision. It is estimated that this number can be reduced by up to 85% by having a correctly installed child car seat.

British Columbia law requires that:

- children under 1 year and under (20lb) be correctly buckled in a rear facing car seat
- children over 1 year and over (20lb) be correctly buckled in a front facing seat with tether
- children over 18 kg (40lb) and under 145cm (4'9") be correctly buckled in a booster seat
- children over 145cm (4'9") or over 9 years of age be correctly buckled in a seatbelt

The month of June is Child Passenger Safety Month in British Columbia and has been officially proclaimed by Mayor and Council as Child Passenger Safety Month in the City of Nanaimo. Nanaimo Fire Rescue will be hosting two free car seat education clinics on:

June 19th – Station 2 - 2499 Dorman Road from 1 pm to 3 pm (Call for appointment)

June 26th – Station 3 – 6230 Hammond Bay Road from 1 to 3 pm. (Call for appointment)

Parents can have their child's car seat installation inspected for free by a trained child passenger safety educator. Parents and caregivers should ensure the following have been completed prior to arriving for their appointment:

- Read the child seat section of your vehicles owner's manual
- Record your child seat model # and date of manufacture and check for recalls by visiting http://www.tsfbcaa.com/pdf/child_seat_clinics_links.pdf

- Check the child seat expiry date (moulded into the plastic on the back of the child seat, or noted in instruction manual)
- Bring instruction manual
- Install the seat prior to attending the check
- Ensure your vehicle has a tether bolt installed when using a forward facing child car seat
- **Please ensure that you bring someone to supervise your child as we will need your full attention while going through the inspection and we will not have staff or volunteers to mind your child.**

Nanaimo Fire Rescue is dedicated to making child transportation safer and will be holding additional education sessions throughout the year. Education clinics are by appointment only.

To book an appointment for an upcoming Child Passenger Safety clinic or to learn more, please call 250-753-7311 or email us at fireinfo@nanaimo.ca. For more information residents can visit www.nanaimo.ca/fire or call 250-753-7311.

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For more information please contact Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue at 250-755-4572.