

September 12, 2012

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If your child is under the age of two, should that child be in a front-facing or rear-facing child safety seat? At what age may your child ride in the front seat? How long does your child need to stay in a car seat or booster seat?



Burleson firefighters are learning the answers to all of those questions and more as they go through 32-40 hours of National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training to become certified child passenger safety technicians. The Burleson Fire Department will become the first fire department in Johnson County to have all firefighters certified in child passenger safety.

The certification is thanks to Safe Kids of Tarrant County, led by Cook Children's, and the Burleson Fire Department. The A shift firefighters will

complete the 32-40 hour training by Sept. 26. The other two shifts will complete the certification within the next few months.

On graduation day, Wednesday, Sept. 26, the A shift certified firefighters will host a Free Car Seat Checkup at Burleson Fire Station #1, 828 S.W. Alsbury Blvd., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Make an appointment by calling 682-885-2634. Your child must be present for the appointment. Those without appointments will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. The checkup is hosted by the fire department, Safe Kids and Cook Children's.

Tarrant County Safe Kids sees an approximately 97 percent misuse rate by those who attend the Car Seat Check-Ups. If your child is under the age of two, it is safest for the child to be in a rear-facing seat. All children 12 years old and younger should always ride in the back seat. And, your child should stay in a car

seat or booster seat until they are eight years old unless they are taller than 4-feet 9-inches tall. All passengers, in the front seat and back, must use a seatbelt.

After the Sept. 26 Car Seat Checkup, parents may call Fire Station #1, 817-426-9176, and set up an appointment to have a car seat checked out.

**Links to more information:**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>

Cook Children's/Safe Kids Tarrant County

<https://www.cookchildrens.org/AboutUs/CHO/SafeKidsTarrantCounty/Pages/ChildPassengerSafety.aspx>