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**!! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !!**

## **It's Child Passenger Safety Week (September 13-19, 2015)**

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old. Many times deaths and injuries can be prevented by proper use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts. Superstition Fire & Medical District's goal for child passenger safety is to make sure all parents and caregivers are correctly using the right restraint (rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat, or seat belt) for their children's ages and sizes.

Child Passenger Safety Week will conclude with National Seat Check Saturday on September 19, when certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available to offer education and instruction to parents and caregivers. Join us from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Apache Junction Boys & Girls Club National Day for Kids Event. Along with child passenger safety, everyone will also enjoy free food, games, booths, entertainment, and much more. The AJ Boys & Girls Club is located at 1755 N. Idaho Road.

Superstition Fire & Medical District encourages everyone to be vigilant about passenger safety, making sure all adults are wearing a seat belt, and drivers are not distracted by cell phones or anything that can take their attention away from the road.

### **KEY STATISTICS**

#### **Lives lost & injuries**

- Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
- Every 34 seconds one child under age 13 is involved in a crash.
- From 2009 to 2013, 3,335 children under age 13 were killed and an estimated 611,000 children were injured in car crashes.
- In 2013 alone, 126,000 children under age 13 were injured as passengers in car crashes.
- On average, nearly 2 children under age 13 were killed, and 345 children were injured every day in 2013 while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans.
- From 2009 to 2013, 1,552 tweens (ages 8 to 14) were killed in cars, vans, and SUVs.
- In 2013, over one-third (38%) of children (under 13) killed in car crashes were completely unrestrained – they were not in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts.

### **Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts save lives**

- In 2013, among children under the age of 5 in cars, an estimated 263 lives were saved by child restraints.
  - An additional 55 children could have survived if car seat use was at 100 percent.

### **Car seats work best when used correctly**

- In passenger cars, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions are 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.
- Most parents are confident that they have correctly installed their child's car seat, but in most cases (59%) the seat has not been installed correctly.

For more information, please call (480) 982-1299 or visit us at [www.sfmd.az.gov](http://www.sfmd.az.gov)

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