

**Leicester Police Department**  
**Helping to Keep Kids Safe on Massachusetts Roadways**  
*Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Event is going to be held in Leicester  
at the Police Headquarters on July 31, 2010 from 8am-Noon*

Buckling up is important for everybody, especially children, but more than 75 percent of child seats are not installed correctly. To keep kids safe and raise awareness for common child and booster seat errors, a free child passenger safety seat checkup will be held at the LPD Headquarters located at 90 South Main St in Leicester where nationally certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand to inspect and properly install child safety seats.

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death among children ages 3 to 14 in the United States, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In 2006, (the last year in which statistics are available), an estimated 392 lives were saved among children under the age of 5 because of the use of child safety seats. Unfortunately, three out of four child safety seats are not properly installed and even a sudden stop can seriously injure a child who is not properly secured in the right type of child safety seat.

“As a mother of four children, I know how important it is to correctly select, install, and use child safety seats,” said Sheila Burgess, director of the Highway Safety Division for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). “This checkup and the others taking place across the state represent our commitment to ensuring parents and caregivers are safely buckling up children as well as themselves on every drive.”

The Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Law requires children who are under 8 years of age or less than 57 inches in height must ride in a child safety seat or booster seat appropriate to their size based on the manufacturers’ recommendations. The Massachusetts Safety Belt Law requires passengers of all ages to wear a seat belt.

This checkup is part of a statewide child passenger safety initiative made possible by federal grant funding provided by the EOPSS. Questions on this checkup or any aspect of child passenger safety may be directed to the EOPSS’ child passenger safety hotline at 1-877-392-5956 or by visiting [www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats](http://www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats).

The child passenger safety workshop is open to everyone. Some car seats will be available to replace damaged seats.

Along with this program the Leicester Police Department has received bicycle helmets through an EOPSS grant and will be distributed free of charge during this event. Helmets are available to town residents only.