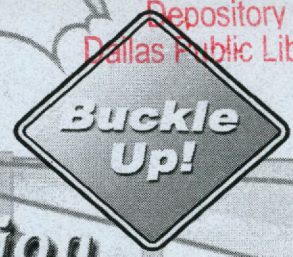


On The Road With...

Fall 2000



Rural Passenger Safety Education

Vol. 1 No. 13



Texas Agricultural Extension Service
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

OFFICER DESIGNS

EFFECTIVE 3D PREVENTION PROGRAM

by Chuck Rogers

I'm the School Resource Officer and Community Police Officer for the city of Waskom, which is located in the northeastern part of Texas, at the Texas/Louisiana border about 10 minutes from Shreveport. Our town has a little over 2000 residents, with a high school population of approximately 400 students.

As the School Resource Officer, I'm not only responsible for the security of the school, staff, and students, but I also go to classrooms and teach numerous safety and law-related lessons. My biggest challenge is coming up with ideas that will keep the attention of the high school students. There are always students who don't take the lesson seriously or who want to clown around and not pay attention.

In the spring of the 1999-2000 school year, I decided that the issues of drinking and driving or being under the influence of drugs and driving needed to be addressed. Keeping in mind that Waskom High School holds their prom and graduation both in May, I spent the first three months of the semester trying to find an idea that would grab the students' attention.

I looked around my office and found a pair of fatal vision goggles and videos, including a video about survivors of impaired vehicle crashes. The video not only had some of the actual victims, but it also featured family members of the deceased and their friends. However, I still didn't feel that I had enough material to put on a program that would motivate

the students and stay with them. It was when I looked in the trunk of my patrol car and found some traffic cones that the gears in my head started to move. I immediately called the owner of Sammy's Golf Carts of Marshall, Texas and asked if he would donate a golf cart for use in a program that I was planning.

His reply of yes was unexpected but welcomed. Now I had almost everything I needed. I then contacted Tom Davidson of Davidson's Wrecker and asked him how hard it would be to get a wrecked vehicle to put on display in the middle of town where people would see it. He told me it would be no problem and in a little over an hour, he brought a vehicle for

display— a vehicle that a former Waskom student was driving in an alcohol-related crash just a few months earlier.



see *Prevention Program* page 3

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Keep It Moving

by Chief Harry Crum

During the Labor Day holiday in September, "Operation Blue TALON 2: Crashcrack Down" went into effect. Thousands of law enforcement officers across Region VI (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and the Indian Nations), were out in a coordinated effort to crack down on vehicle crashes. Officers declared "zero tolerance" for traffic violations such as speed, aggressive driving, drunk driving and occupant protection violations. A major media campaign was initiated to get the word out to law enforcement and the public at large that law enforcement agencies would be out in force in an effort to reduce injury and death on our roadways.

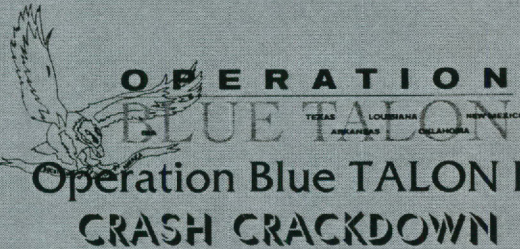
In 1999, 3,518 fatalities were reported in Texas—49.3% were alcohol related.

Over this past Labor Day weekend, the Texas Department of Public Safety

reported the following enforcement actions: 732 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests, 15,116 speeding citations, 4,680 safety belt citations and 527 child restraint violations. This year, 34 vehicle fatalities were reported on Texas roadways, compared to 45 during the Labor Day holiday in 1999. While 34 are too many, it is a significant reduction from 1999. In fact, in Region VI there were 55 vehicle fatalities this Labor Day holiday compared to 85 in 1999. These statistics show that effective traffic law enforcement works and saves lives!

The 681 law enforcement agencies, representing nearly 42,000 officers in Texas have made commitments to increase public education and enforcement of traffic laws. These agencies will again "step up to the plate" and target drunk and drugged driving during the upcoming *National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Month* in December.

In addition, law enforcement agencies across the country will be out in force in an effort to not only enforce DUI laws, but other traffic laws such as speed and safety belt use. These abuses are killers and cost our society \$150 billion a year. No price can be placed on the loss of a friend or loved one.



National Goals*

- ✓ Increase safety belt use to 85% by the year 2000*
- ✓ Reduce child passenger fatalities 15% by the year 2000**
- ✓ Increase safety belt use to 90% by the year 2005*
- ✓ Reduce child passenger fatalities 25% by the year 2005**

Texas is dedicated to meeting the national goals and is an active partner in Buckle Up America.

* Baseline data from 68% in 1996
** Reduced to 515 in 2005

Yet the majority of these tragedies on our nation's roadways are preventable, and could be avoided altogether.

The holiday season brings with it celebration, festivities, and cheer. Don't be a statistic. Always *Buckle Up*, and if someone is planning on attending a party, make sure there's a *designated driver*. Join in the celebration of life, and be an example for others.

Source: Chief Harry Crum NHTSA, Region VI, 819 Taylor St. Rm. 8A38, Ft. Worth, TX 76102 or call 817-978-2021, 2000.

Resources Available:

Educational material available from the Passenger Safety Resource Library to support *National 3-D Prevention Month*:

Videos:

Brandon's Story
Preventing Road Rage

Printed Material:

Underage Drinking Brochure
If You Are Under 21-Don't Drink poster
Texas Road Tips

Fact Sheets:

Impairment Begins with the First Drink
Drive Defensively and Friendly

Educational Program Packets:

If You Drive...What About Drinking?
National Drunk and Drugged Driving
Month Planning Guide

Contact Dana Runyan at 979-845-1104 for assistance with any resource materials.



National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month provides opportunities to reinforce the dangers of drinking and driving. This December, the focus will be the use of sober designated drivers during the winter holiday season. Campaign messages will encourage people who are drunk or drugged to either take a cab home, ride with a sober designated driver, or spend the night where they are.

One highlight of 3D Month is National Holiday Lifesavers Weekend (December 15-17, 2000), which will kick off with Lights On for Life Day (December 15). On December 15, participants will drive with their lights on to remind Americans of those who have been killed by impaired drivers.

Source: NHTSA, Building Safe Communities Newsletter, October 2000.

UPDATE...

Dr. Sue Bailey has been named to serve as NHTSA Administrator. Dr. Bailey has been Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs since 1998. Among her accomplishments is the inclusion of continuity of care, preventive medicine and health protection in the military health system.

Source: NHTSA, Building Safe Communities Newsletter, October 2000.

Prevention Program from page 1

Now I had the ingredients for an awesome program. I employed the help of the Waskom High School senior art class and had a banner made for the wrecked car. The message was simple: "You Drink, You Drive, You Die!!" and showed a vehicle veering off the road and crashing. We set a date approximately one week before the prom and set up two assemblies, one with the 9th and 10th grades and the other with the 11th and 12th grades. Separating the grades not only helped with controlling the number of students but kept the program age appropriate, since many 9th and 10th graders do not have licenses. The object of the lesson was to teach the students about consequences. I spoke to the assemblies, showed them overheads of our state laws (drinking and driving and Minor in Possession) and then discussed the consequences. This got some of the students' attention, but I felt that the best part was yet to come. The students were taken outside where five students and one teacher were randomly chosen. The remaining students were asked to form an observation group and stand off to the side. The traffic cones were set up over an area about half a football field in length to make a winding road with four different turns. All the turns were very simple to maneuver. Three students from the observation group drove the cart along the course accompanied by myself or the officer who was assisting me, and there were no problems. We then took one student at a time from the selected five, put the fatal vision goggles on them, and put them behind the wheel of the golf cart. They were asked to drive the course. For each cone they hit (everybody hit them, including the teachers), a student from the observation group was picked to represent the victim that the impaired driver would have killed. When the driver got to the end of the course, an officer was waiting to represent "the end of the line" and to administer the Standardized Field Sobriety Test with the driver still wearing the fatal vision goggles. Let me say NO ONE—adults, students, or officers present—could perform the test properly with the goggles on. The victims stood where the driver would have to see them as they were being administered the test. This was an awesome visual aid. This article cannot do justice to the looks on the students' faces as the tests were administered. When they failed, they were put into cuffs and driven away in a patrol car.

However, that wasn't the most dynamic thing that happened while we did this program. As we took the 11th and 12th graders out to do the same thing we did with the other students, we had a young man get behind the wheel and hit a cone in the first turn. I went over and picked a student at random as before. It was a girl, and she stood at the end so he could see his victim. Just then a young lady in the group broke out crying hysterically. We went over to check on her and to see if she was okay. A student standing with her arm around her told us that it was the young man's prom date that he had just "killed."

Both groups were taken back inside and shown the video about survivors. You could have literally heard a pin drop on the floor. Two other students had to leave the room and needed counseling because someone driving under the influence had hurt someone they knew. Doing this program had even more of an impact than I had expected. Best of all, we did not have one alcohol or drug-related incident or motor vehicle crash involving a Waskom student around prom or graduation. Our plans are to present this program again next spring.

For more information contact Chuck Rogers, Waskom I.S.D. Resource Officer and Community Police Officer, Waskom, TX, at (903) 687-2293.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON TEAM



The Law Enforcement Liaison Team (LELT) concept was initially developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to bridge communication within the traffic safety community. Through a cooperative partnership, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Law Enforcement Training Division established a Law Enforcement Liaison Team in Texas. Currently, team members include Lance Platt and Jerry Morris.

LELT members are former peace officers from both state and municipal agencies. Team members work with TxDOT and other agencies to enhance traffic safety programs in an

effort to reduce injuries and deaths on Texas roadways.

LELT can provide information to cities and counties across Texas on the development of traffic safety programs and training opportunities that are funded by TxDOT.

If you would like further information on traffic safety programs, contact Lance Platt, LELT Program Coordinator, at 800-423-8433 or e-mail: Lance.Platt@teexmail.tamu.edu

Source: Lance Platt, LELT Program Coordinator, 2000.

Taking Community Involvement to the Next Level

by Cindy Parks, TSS, Texas Department of Transportation

If you are looking for someone who cares about kids, look no further than Tranum Buick in Temple, Texas. For the past three years, Tranum Buick has been the ideal partner for a child safety seat checkup event. Twice a year, the dealership closes down its sales and



Making A Difference

service departments to conduct a child safety seat checkup event. On the day of the event, vehicles are not for sale nor is any vehicle

serviced, but a child safety seat will be checked by a nationally certified child passenger safety technician.

Martha Quinn, of Tranum, organizes top notch checkup events due to attention to details. The dealership pays for radio, television, and newspaper ads and all daycare centers in the area are faxed flyers with the checkup information. On the day of the event, there are numerous volunteers from the dealership, local police departments, Texas Department of Public Safety, hospitals, the local trauma council and nursing schools. Clowns, balloons, hot dogs and Dr. Pepper are just part of the scenery. There is always an ambulance, a care-flight helicopter, and a police cruiser to explore. While parents wait, they can have their child fingerprinted and pick up lots of information on just about every safety topic.

see *Community Involvement* page 7

Get the Facts

- ▶ Almost 700,000 Texas school children use alcohol. More than half a million are considered heavy users, meaning they binge drink at least once a month.
- ▶ In Texas, the average age for first use of beer is 12 years and the average age for first use of liquor is 13 years.

Source: Alliance Against Underage Drinking, Information and Media Kit, 2000.

Cut It Out! ✂

The insert, *Kick Scooter Safety Fact Sheet*, is provided for your convenience and is reproducible.



KICK SCOOTER SAFETY Fact Sheet

THE STATISTICS

Kick scooters are being used by people of all ages in Texas, the United States and around the world for commuting and for play. With their newfound popularity comes the need for safety instruction. More than 9,400 Americans, mostly children, were treated in the emergency room for kick scooter-related injuries January 2000 - August 2000. More than 4,000 of those injuries occurred in August alone. With this in mind, it is imperative that we learn how to protect ourselves and prevent injuries while still being able to enjoy the fun and convenience of riding kick scooters.

Source: CPSC, 2000

PROTECTION

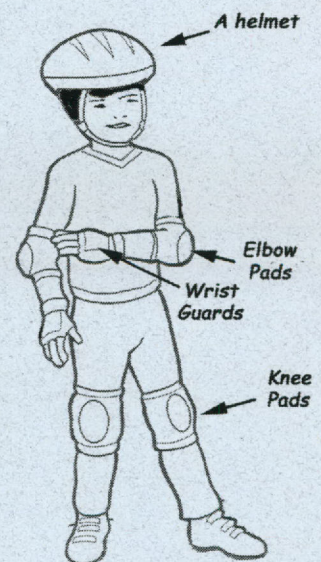
Protection - Safety gear is a must. This includes:

Helmet - a well fitting bicycle helmet that meets the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines. (There will be a CPSC sticker on the box or inside the helmet if the standards have been met for that helmet.)

Knee, elbow and wrist pads - the same that would be used for in-line skating. If there are no wrist guards, well fitting gloves that protect the hands are a must.

Shoes - should be durable, sturdy and comfortable. Athletic shoes work well, but **NO SANDALS!**

Source: www.scooter-info.com



PREVENTION

One way to prevent injuries is through proper technique.

DO:

- ✓ Stand straight and evenly distribute weight on the foot plate.
- ✓ Ride on smooth, flat surfaces, as the kick scooter is not designed for off-road conditions.

DON'T:

- ✗ Ride with feet and body up front, hugging the T-handle. It is extremely dangerous. This can cause your balance to be thrown off, making a serious fall more likely.
- ✗ Twist your body in a skateboard-style stance with your toes facing the side of the foot plate. This is not a good technique; it is a bad habit.
- ✗ Attempt to ride with more than one person on the kick scooter. Kick scooters are designed for one person only.

Source: www.scooter-info.com



THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - SAFE RIDERS OF TEXAS OFFERS THE FOLLOWING HELMET TIPS:

- ✓ Standards - Helmets must meet the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standard. Look for the CPSC sticker.
- ✓ Proper fit - Measure around the child's head about 1 inch above the eyebrows. Select a helmet with a size range that includes the child's head size. The helmet should be worn straight and level, resting straight on top of the head, low on the forehead, just above the eyebrows with the rim level from front to back.
- ✓ Adjust the helmet for a snug fit - to be effective, a helmet should fit snugly. Most new helmets include extra foam pads of different thicknesses that can be used to adjust the size to fit a child's head.
- ✓ Buckle the chin strap on every ride.
- ✓ Replace a helmet after a crash. Crash impacts crush some of the bicycle-helmet foam. Even though the damage may not be visible, replace a helmet after a crash.



Put the child's name and phone number inside the helmet in case it gets lost or the child is involved in a crash.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

Always make sure the kick scooter is in top condition and ready to ride.

- ✓ Check all locking devices, adjusting clamps and levers for the steering column and handlebars to be sure they are secure and tight.
- ✓ If the kick scooter has inflatable tires, check to be sure they are inflated properly.
- ✓ If the kick scooter has non-inflatable tires, check to be sure they are in good condition.
- ✓ Test the brakes and make sure they are working properly.



Children ages 8 and under should not use kick scooters without close adult supervision.



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT KICK SCOOTERS?

- Check out www.scooter-info.com
- Contact Rural Passenger Safety at (979) 845-1104 to check out resources

Source: National SAFE KIDS Campaign, 2000

WINTER Storm Survival Kit

For many this holiday season, thoughts will turn to traveling—traveling to spend time with relatives or friends.

Some trips may be to parts of the country where winter is a harsh reality, much different than the mild weather normally found in Texas. Even small amounts of snow and ice can cause severe problems in Texas where winter storms are infrequent.

Before starting that winter trip, prepare by creating a survival kit. Start with two large empty coffee cans with plastic lids. In the cans, place waterproof matches, four household candles, two packets of facial tissue, and two pounds of peanuts, raisins, candy or granola. For a little more investment, add a first-aid kit, pocket knife, flashlight with spare batteries, compass, portable weather radio, large can of sand, shovel and two blankets. The sky is really the limit here, so be creative. Add games, books, cards or a chess set.

Battery jumper cables, highway flares, siphon hoses, electrical or duct tape, and minor repair tools such as pliers, screwdrivers and wrenches should be standard equipment in a vehicle. Additional tips include: keep a full tank of gas; let

someone know your destination, route and when you expect to arrive.



Sometimes vehicles get stuck in winter storms. It is best to stay in the vehicle and not walk to safety. Tie a brightly colored cloth (maybe red) to the antenna for everyone to see. Every hour, start the vehicle, and use the heater for about ten minutes. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't

backup into the vehicle, and keep the interior light on while the vehicle is running. While sitting, keep moving your arms and legs to keep the blood circulating and to stay warm. With today's modern technology, a cell phone may just be your lifesaver, so keep it charged at all times.

Remember to always check the weather by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and TV stations, or the Weather Channel. Be alert to changing weather conditions, and avoid unnecessary travel.

Source: Larry Peabody, National Weather Service, Austin/San Antonio, 830-606-3717, 2000.

Community Involvement from page 4

In addition, Tranum provides all the replacement child safety seats for the checkup events. One event was so well attended that technicians ran out of replacement seats; Tranum took names and addresses of folks who still needed a seat and replacement seats were given to those families the next week. The dealership technicians, working with other certified technicians, have checked approximately 400 seats in the last couple of years.

Tranum is really committed to keeping kids safe. There are three nationally certified child passenger safety technicians on staff, including the owner! Martha Quinn

is always willing to share her secrets of success with anyone who would like to do a similar event in their town. Many people leave this event saying that they would never buy a car anywhere else. People are that impressed with Tranum's caring attitude when it comes to kids.

For more information, please contact Cindy Parks, Traffic Safety Specialist, Texas Department of Transportation at 254-867-2725. For child safety seat checkup events scheduled at Tranum Auto Group, please visit their web site: <http://www.tranumauto.com>.

Brazoria County - Pearland, Texas

Dr. Alma Fonseca, CEA-FCS, held a successful checkup event on October 12, 2000, at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Pearland. Wal-Mart did an excellent job providing supplies, refreshments, and even volunteers. Many thanks to the store manager, Joe Cabrera, and especially the personnel manager, Lucy Cavazos.

The statistics:

■ Total child safety seats (CSS) checked	91
■ Children arrived correctly restrained	2
■ Number of recalled seats	5
■ Seats with labels missing	6
■ Old and unsafe CSS collected	13
■ Number of CSS distributed	32
■ Children arriving in seat belts or no CSS	8



County Extension agent, Dr. Alma Fonseca, is a CSS technician at the Pearland checkup event.

Glasscock/Martin County - Stanton, Texas

Agents Shirley Weeks (Glasscock County) and Kathryn Burch (Martin County) teamed up to conduct a successful child safety seat checkup event in Stanton on October 26, 2000.



County Extension agent, Kathy Burch, assists Trooper Treece with the disposal of CSS after the Stanton checkup event.

The statistics:

■ Total child safety seats (CSS) checked	38
■ Children arrived correctly restrained	0
■ Number of recalled seats	2
■ Seats with labels missing	10
■ Old and unsafe CSS collected	22
■ Number of CSS distributed	26
■ Children arriving in seat belts or no CSS	3

CHILDREN and IMPAIRED DRIVERS

Impaired driving is a concern for every person who travels in a vehicle. But it might come as a surprise to know that the majority of children who die at the hands of impaired drivers aren't killed by impaired drivers who run into them, but are the victims of drinking parents or caregivers who transport them.

A May 2000 study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported that nearly two out of three children killed in alcohol-related crashes are passengers riding with an impaired driver. In the majority of these cases,

children were riding with an impaired driver who failed to buckle them up.



The study—which analyzed a decade of national crash data—found a direct correlation between the driver's alcohol consumption and the likelihood of children being properly restrained. Specifically, the study found that the more alcohol the impaired driver consumed, the greater the probability that children would not be buckled up.

Source: NHTSA, *Drinking and Driving Puts Kids At Risk*, www.nhtsa.dot.gov, October 2000.

Safe Communities Corner

with Ann Athey, RN, MSN



Creating Safe Communities by Preventing Impaired Driving

Impaired driving is an often ignored public health problem that threatens the safety of families and communities. Although nationally there has been significant progress in reducing impaired driving, it continues to kill thousands of Americans. Nearly 16,000 people die and 305,000 are injured every year due to alcohol and drug-related traffic crashes. Simply put, every 33 minutes someone in this country dies in an alcohol-related crash.

Impaired driving is a critical problem in Texas. For several years, Texas has led the country in alcohol-related fatalities. In 1999, there were 1,734 people killed in alcohol-related crashes, 49% of the total crash fatalities. This far exceeds the national average of 38%. The same year, 260 youth ages 15-20 were killed in alcohol-related crashes, 45% of the total youth fatalities, even though it is illegal for that age group to possess or consume alcohol.

The greatest tragedy and hope is that impaired driving is preventable. The **Safe Community** approach uses community-based solutions to decrease traffic related injuries, including alcohol-related crashes. The characteristics of a **Safe Community** that make this approach successful are: the use of local injury and crash reports to identify the problem, building a citizen coalition, implementing and prioritizing strategies and measuring results.

The key to any successful impaired driving program begins with strong enforcement of existing laws and the enactment of tough laws. Each year, nearly 1.5 million potential killers are taken off America's highways by law enforcement agencies thanks to tougher laws, sobriety check points and saturation patrols. Texas does not conduct sobriety check points. Examples of legislation that discourages impaired

driving are .08 BAC and zero tolerance—laws which Texas has on the books—and open container and repeat DWI offender—laws which Texas has not passed.

Designated drivers are among the more effective prevention measures because many of the risks related to impaired driving are removed. When confronted with a potentially impaired driver, there are three options: designate a sober driver before going out, make plans to spend the night out, or take advantage of alternate transportation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Establish a **Safe Community** and join the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose** campaign. Support local law enforcement efforts; educate the public and encourage responsible decision-making. And if you are involved with youth programs, your influence can be particularly effective in stopping the problem of underage drinking and impaired driving before it starts. By joining the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose** campaign, you will have an opportunity to make a difference in your community by:

- partnering with the media to raise awareness of the deadly consequences of impaired driving and motorcycling
- building and expanding partnerships among local and state organizations and **Safe Communities** coalitions
- creating community support for the December 15-17, 2000, law enforcement mobilization
- enforcing existing laws through active enforcement programs
- implementing the Shattered Dreams program in area high schools

see *Safe Communities* page 11

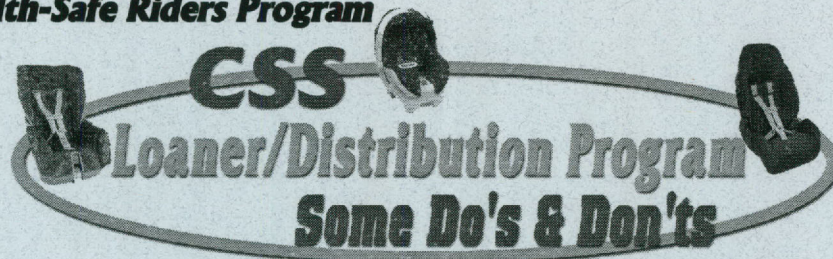
The Rollover Convincer



State fairs and the start of school have the Rollover Convincer in high demand. More than 6,485 people have viewed the Rollover Convincer since July 1, 2000.

The Rural Passenger Safety Project would like to introduce our newest team member, Dana Runyan, who is our Resource Library Coordinator. If you are interested in booking one of the Rollover Convincers, please contact Dana at 979-845-1104.

Texas Department of Health-Safe Riders Program



The Texas Department of Health's (TDH) Safe Riders Program sponsors a network of safety seat loaner/distribution programs that offer child safety seats (CSS) to families with financial need. Currently, there are about 100 active loaner/distribution programs throughout Texas. Safe Riders offers a four-hour training class designed to provide an introduction to child passenger safety and enable the person operating the program to provide education to clients in conjunction with a loaner or free safety seat program.

It is important to remember that a person who attends a four-hour training is equipped to provide basic education about CSS to the public; they are *not* equipped to provide hands-on assistance to parents with the installation of a CSS in a vehicle. Doing so would be a liability risk—not only to the individual but also to his/her organization. Persons who want to be able to help parents in this way should enroll in a four-day Child Passenger Safety Technician Workshop, which is offered by Safe Riders and the Rural Passenger Safety Education Program.

The idea behind a loaner/distribution program training is simple: people receiving a free or loaner CSS should also receive some education about the importance of using the seat and basic information on how to use the seat. In the same way, for example, bicycle helmet distribution programs should provide education to children in conjunction with a free or reduced-cost helmet.

What can someone do after completing a **four-hour** loaner/distribution training?

- Explain the importance of using CSS.

- Show the basic functions of the CSS being provided.
- Provide a set of instructions regarding use of the CSS and resources for additional information.
- Complete all necessary paperwork, such as loaner/distribution agreement and waiver.

What should someone *not* do?

- Offer hands-on assistance to parents with installing CSS in vehicles.
- Recommend specific CSS or other technical advice.

If a parent needs hands-on assistance or technical advice, loaner/distribution program personnel should politely avoid being drawn into these areas. Rather, they should refer the parent to an appropriate resource, including the following:

- the child safety seat and vehicle instruction books
- national and state resources, including:
 - ◆ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) toll-free helpline 888-DASH 2 DOT, web site: www.nhtsa.dot.gov
 - ◆ Safe Riders (800-252-8255), web site: www.tdh.state.tx.us/injury/safe/
 - ◆ Rural Passenger Safety Education (877-SNUG FIT)
 - ◆ Listing of certified child passenger safety technicians Nationwide: NHTSA web site-www.nhtsa.gov Texas: RPSE web site-www.buckleup.tamu.edu
 - ◆ Local SAFE KIDS Coalition (listed on Safe Riders web site)
 - ◆ DaimlerChrysler *Fit for a Kid* dealerships - dealerships with certified technicians on staff

see *Prevention Program* page 11

Child Safety Seat



In cooperation with the US

Consumer Product Safety Commission and NHTSA, Century has issued a recall of their Infant Car Seats/Carriers. The recall involves all Century rear-facing infant car seats/carriers with one-piece handles manufactured from January 1991 through July

1997! The recall relates only to the use of the seat as a carrier, not how the seat performs in a vehicle. Century will provide consumers with a free replacement handle. Do not carry the seat by the handle until it has been replaced. For information go to Century's website: www.centuryproducts.com. Or call the CPSC hotline at 800-638-2772, NHTSA at 888-DASH-2-DOT or Century at 800-865-1419.



Century Infant Seat/Carrier on recall

Loaner Program from page 10

Safety seat loaner/distribution programs fill a much-needed service. They provide seats and basic education to families in financial need, helping them comply with the law as well as protecting their children. The State of Texas is indebted to the people and organizations that offer this much-needed service, year-after-year. These programs have taken a responsible step in providing for the safety of children and families in need. Part of the responsibility the program shoulders is to know the limitations of the training and to know where to refer people for more detailed help and information.

For more information about loaner/distribution programs, call Safe Riders at 800-252-8255 or the Rural Passenger Safety Education Program at 877-SNUG FIT.

Source: Johnny Humphreys, Texas Department of Health-Safe Riders Program, 2000.

Safe Communities from page 9

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

If you would like information about creating a Safe Community, call **Ann Athey, RN, MSN, Injury Control Specialist, NHTSA Region VI, at 817-978-0661** or e-mail: aathey@nhtsa.dot.gov. Check out the NHTSA Safe Community website at: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/safecommunities.

The You Drink & Drive. You Lose Campaign from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offers solutions to the problem of the impaired driver. As part of the December 2000 National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, NHTSA has unveiled the newest product, the Designated Driver Community Action Guide. To download this information, go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website: www.nhtsa.dot.gov or contact the **NHTSA Region VI office/Kenneth Copeland at 817-978-0120**. For more information on impaired driving, call **TxDOT: Bill Reichert: 512-416-3172** (Youth Alcohol Programs) or **Judy Allen: 512-416-3194** (Adult Impaired Driving Programs).

Source: Ann Athey, RN, MSN, NHTSA Safe Communities, 2000.

EVENFLO CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is currently conducting an investigation regarding the carry handle on certain Evenflo rear-facing infant car seat/carriers. Consumers allege that when lifting or while carrying the seat by its carry handle, the handle either broke or its locking mechanism unlatched.

To help in this investigation, Evenflo is seeking seats for use as test samples and for analysis of the handle and handle-locking mechanism. The specific seat they are interested in is the "Joy Ride" model rear-facing infant car seat/carrier produced in 1988 through 1998.

If you, or someone you know, owns one of these seats and are willing to make it available as a test sample, please contact John Abbott at 202-366-5221 or via e-mail at jabbott@nhtsa.dot.gov.

TIMELY TIPS NEW into the Millennium

December 2000

- ⌚ National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month
- ⌚ 12/8/00 Child Safety Seat Check Up Event, Navarro County, contact Ext. Agent, Courtney Felder at 903-654-3076
- ⌚ 12/15-12/17/00 National Holiday Lifesavers Weekend

January 2001

- ⌚ 1/8-1/12/01 NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Training (Safe Riders), Humble, contact Mike Legoudes at 281-446-7889
- ⌚ 1/30/01 CSS Check Up Event, Comal County, contact Ext. Agent, Kathleen Greer at 830-620-3440

February 2001

- ⌚ 2/11-2/17/01 Child Passenger Safety Week
- ⌚ 2/19-2/23/01 NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Training (TAEX), Abilene, contact Myrna Hill at 979-862-4655
- ⌚ 2/26-3/2/01 NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Training (Safe Riders), Ft. Worth, contact Darla Dike at 903-510-9114

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