

# On The Road With



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The Texas A&M University System

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Rural Passenger Safety Education

## National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Month Take a Stand Against Impaired Driving!

As December approaches and the holiday season is upon us, we are reminded that impaired driving is more prevalent during this time of celebration. Because of this, December is designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Month. The National 3D Prevention Month Coalition, a public-private sector partnership, is an effort to have communities across the country join to conduct public awareness and enforcement campaigns to prevent impaired driving.



On Wednesday, December 1, 1999, highway safety leaders from public and private sectors will gather in Washington D.C. to kick-off the holiday season with the latest news and information on anti-impaired driving efforts and a plea for responsible behavior over the holiday period.

**Lights on for Life Day** will be celebrated on Friday, December 17, 1999. This nationwide observance asks motorists to drive with headlights on all day to show support for anti-impaired driving efforts and to remember victims of impaired drivers.

**National Holiday Lifesavers Weekend** will be observed Friday, December 17 through Sunday, December 19, 1999. Over the weekend, hundreds of police agencies and sheriffs' departments will be out in force to increase public awareness efforts to stop impaired driving, speeding and aggressive driving. Hundreds of community groups will be supporting efforts in towns and cities across Texas.

**You Drink & Drive. You Lose. Mobilization Weekend** is scheduled for the first time ever, December 17-19, 1999 as a part of a national

enforcement program. Based on experience with previous campaigns, mobilization helps to deter high numbers of potential violators.

What is **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.?** Drunk and drugged driving is a crime that results in tremendous loss of life and may be economically devastating – both to individuals involved and to the community. It is estimated that alcohol was involved in 39 percent of fatal injuries of all crashes in 1998. Nationally, the 15,935 fatalities in alcohol-related crashes during 1998 represent an alcohol-related fatality every 33 minutes. Remarkably, these numbers represent a 38.4 percent decrease from previous years. While these results are encouraging, the fact remains that too

many lives are lost each year to a tragedy that can be avoided. That's why the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has initiated the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.** campaign, with the goal of reducing the current fatality rate to no more than 11,000 per year by the year 2005.

Source: NHTSA, 1999.

In Texas, for the fifth year in a row, the percentage of people killed in alcohol-related crashes declined. In 1998, 29.6 percent of Texas traffic fatalities were alcohol-related – down .8 percent. Though this is not much of a decrease, it is a sign of progress.

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, 1999.

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### Resources Available

Educational material available from Rural Passenger Safety Resource Library to support 3D Month:

#### Exhibits:

Zero Tolerance  
Safe & Sober

#### Interactive Items:

DWEyes/Fatal Vision Kits with videos

#### Videos:

Brandon's Story  
Shattered Lives

#### Posters:

If You Are Under 21...Don't Drink  
Zero Tolerance

#### Incentive Items:

.08 Fans  
Safe & Sober Litter Bags

### Drink, Drive, GO TO JAIL...

Over the years, alcohol has become an accepted, even commonplace, fixture of holiday celebrations, sporting events and social gatherings. So it is common that such situations arise, but they are easily avoided by choosing a designated driver or planning alternate modes of transportation. Unfortunately, too many people continue to drive while impaired. In 1998, 64% of the DWI related fatalities occurred in rural areas of Texas. Based on DWI reported crashes in 1998 in Texas:

- one person was killed every 8 hours 16 minutes
- one person was injured every 19 minutes 25 seconds
- one reportable crash occurred every 20 minutes 12 seconds

The simple fact of the matter is that driving while impaired is a crime.

In Texas, the definition of intoxication was changed from 0.10 to 0.08, as of September 1, 1999. The Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the amount of alcohol present in the blood system. BAC begins when an individual consumes even a minimal amount of alcohol, and increases arithmatically with each drink consumed. BAC does not distinguish between "hard" liquor, wine or beer; any alcohol consumed will increase the BAC level within an individual. BAC can vary in an individual due to such factors as weight, previous experience with alcohol and amount of food consumed prior to drinking. Studies show that impairment begins at any BAC level over .00, and can affect an individual's judgement and ability to react, factors that are critical to safe driving. The only truly safe driving is sober driving.

Source: Department of Public Safety and NHTSA, 1999.



## Colleges and Universities May Now Inform Parents of Alcohol and Drug Violations by Students Under 21

When President Clinton signed into law the Higher Education Act of 1998, colleges and universities were presented with new challenges and opportunities dealing with student privacy rights. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 was amended to permit colleges and universities to disclose to parents or legal guardians, information regarding any alcohol or drug violation if the student is under the age of 21, and the institution determines that the student has committed a disciplinary violation with respect to such use or possession.

Texas A&M University is one of the few universities in the country to decide to take advantage of this opportunity. In an effort to change the campus environment to be one free of alcohol abuse, illegal drug use and their effects, the University has asked parents to partner with it to address the increased use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs by college students.

In September, the University sent a letter to parents of 28,000+ students under the age of 21 announcing plans to notify parents if their student is found to have committed an alcohol or drug violation. Enclosed with the letter was a brochure that briefly described the alcohol and drug problem at colleges and universities as well as the alcohol and drug education and prevention programs available. Also enclosed were tips about how to talk with their student about alcohol. Parents were asked to talk with their students about alcohol use and abuse after receiving the letter and if they should be notified of a violation by their student. Changing the campus environment to be one free of alcohol abuse, illegal drug use and their effects requires collaboration and commitment from many individuals and constituencies. The partnership with parents is just one effort being made by the University to address alcohol abuse by students so prevalent on college campuses today.

Source: Dr. Brent Paterson, Director of Student Life, Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1257 (409) 845-3111 [bpateron@tamu.edu](mailto:bpateron@tamu.edu), 1999.

## Keep It Moving

by Chief Harry Crum

To heighten public awareness and enforcement of impaired driving and its consequences, the month of December is *National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Month*. Law enforcement agencies across the country will be out in force in an effort to not only enforce driving under the influence 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. The majority of these tragedies on our nation's roadway are preventable, and could be avoided all together.

Almost 42,000 people were killed in traffic related crashes in 1998. Approximately 40% of those traffic deaths were alcohol-related. The holiday season brings with it celebration, festivities, and cheer. Don't be a statistic. Always *Buckle Up*, and if you're going to drink and be on the road, 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. 1999.

# ZERO TOLERANCE

THINK. DON'T DRINK.

A driver's license is considered a symbol of independence and being an adult. However, it comes with a lot of responsibility such as learning to negotiate roadways, knowing the rules of the road, and understanding the power of the vehicle. If alcohol becomes a factor, it not only affects the judgement of a driver and the ability to react, it also leaves the driver

open to potential injury, property damage and criminal consequences. In Texas, the penalties may be pretty tough because drivers under the age of 21 are not only breaking the law of driving while intoxicated, but also the law of underage drinking.

It is illegal for a minor to drive while having any **detectable** amount of alcohol in their system. Zero Tolerance means that underage drivers face severe penalties if caught drinking and driving. If a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level is over .00, underage drivers will be found guilty of driving under the influence by a minor.

Encouraging safer driving habits at a younger age, should promote healthier driving behavior for the future. Zero Tolerance is the law in Texas!

You Drink & Drive.  
**YOU LOSE**



## 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

## Safety Belts and Impaired Driving **What Can You Do?**

**B**uckle-up and make sure that everyone in the vehicle buckles-up too, EVERY TIME. Don't make the deadly mistake of using safety belts only on freeways or for long trips. Many car crashes happen close to home.

But even that isn't enough. Everyone should work toward improving the safety belt use rate of everyone on the road. Despite all the educational efforts, society is still paying the cost for the tens of thousands of injuries to unbuckled victims. Recent studies have shown that one-third to one-half of the medical costs of persons hospitalized for traffic crashes are absorbed by tax payers.

Another proven way to increase safety belt use is to support and encourage combined public information and enforcement programs at the local level. A National Safety Belt Honor Roll has also been organized to recognize those groups, schools and organizations that can document a use rate of 80 or 90 percent PLUS. Contact your Governor's Highway Safety Representative or your NHTSA regional office for more information.

Source: NHTSA, 1999.

## We Salute Our Grads

The Rural Passenger Safety Education project, of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, in collaboration with Texas Department of Transportation, hosted its first Child Passenger Safety Technician Training in College Station, November 16-19, 1999. Congratulations to the following graduates:

David Aguirre, TEEX  
Sgt. Mike Earney, Beaumont Police Department  
Teri Ficklen, Registered Nurse, Huntsville  
Sgt. Rodney Balsamo, Port Arthur Police Dept  
Dr. Alma, Fonseca CEA-FCS, Brazoria County  
Sandra Henson, CEA-FCS, Jefferson County  
Deputy Louis Koronka, Brazos County Sheriff  
Terri Miller, TAMU  
Jerry Moore, Bryan Police Department  
Jerry Morris, TEEX  
Georgette Pillitere, TxDOT-TSS

Lance Platt, TEEX  
Martha Simien, Beaumont Health Department  
Deputy Tony Stines, Jefferson County Sheriff  
Estella Smith, Former Project Spokesperson  
Trey Whitworth, TEEX  
Rita Winton, CEA-FCS, Kaufman County

Rural Passenger Safety team members would like to thank the following Bryan-College Station businesses for their support of the certification training and advocacy for child passenger safety:

Varsity Ford	Sonic Drive In-University
John Anderson-Merrill Lynch	Twin City Coffee
Ramona Hibbetts-Real Estate Broker	Roly Poly
Café Eccell	Bagel Station
Kona Ranch Steakhouse	Wal-Mart



Following the certification training, a checkup event was held at the College Station Wal-Mart where many local residents had the opportunity to have their child safety seat checked by the new grads.

### Fisher-Price & NHTSA Announce Safety Campaign For Safe Embrace Convertible Car Seats



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Fisher-Price announced a consumer safety campaign to provide modification kits for Fisher-Price's model #79700, Safe Embrace Convertible Car Seat. The campaign involves approximately 54,500 convertible car seats sold and manufactured between May 19, 1997 and March 29, 1998.

The current harness adjuster, which is used to tighten and lock the harness belts around the child, may malfunction if a spring breaks or dislocates from the correct position. When the harness adjuster fails, it may not properly lock the shoulder belt in place. If this occurs, the child may not be adequately protected in a crash. Fisher-Price is urging every owner of this product to obtain and install the replacement part in order to prevent future problems with the adjuster. Fisher-Price has had no reports of injury as a result of this problem.

All consumers who own the Safe Embrace Convertible Car Seat should contact Fisher-Price, toll-free, at 1-800-355-8882 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (EDT) Monday through Friday, to obtain a free replacement harness adjuster or write to: Fisher-Price Consumer Affairs, 636 Girard Avenue, East Aurora, N.Y. 14052. Please follow directions from Fisher-Price until the modification kit arrives.

### New Resources



The Rural Passenger Safety Resource Library has many new items available to support your educational activities. For more information, contact Myrna Hill at 409-845-1104.

#### Exhibits:

Childcare Provider-Traveling with Children  
Kids Aren't Cargo  
Updated Child Safety Seat (3)

#### Videos:

Safe Riders' *Securing Our Future*

#### Brochures:

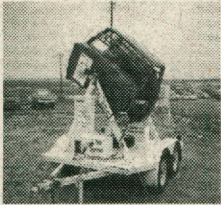
Child Care Provider-*Traveling with Children*  
*Securing Our Future*

#### Incentive Items:

"Buckle Your Bod" Antenna Balls  
"Buckle Your Bod" Key Chains  
"Buckle Up Texas" Pencils  
"BUCKLE UP" Key Chains  
.08 Law... Fan  
"Buckle Up Texas!" Pen & Highlighter  
"If You Are Under 21...Don't Drink"

#### Poster:

"Zero Tolerance" Poster

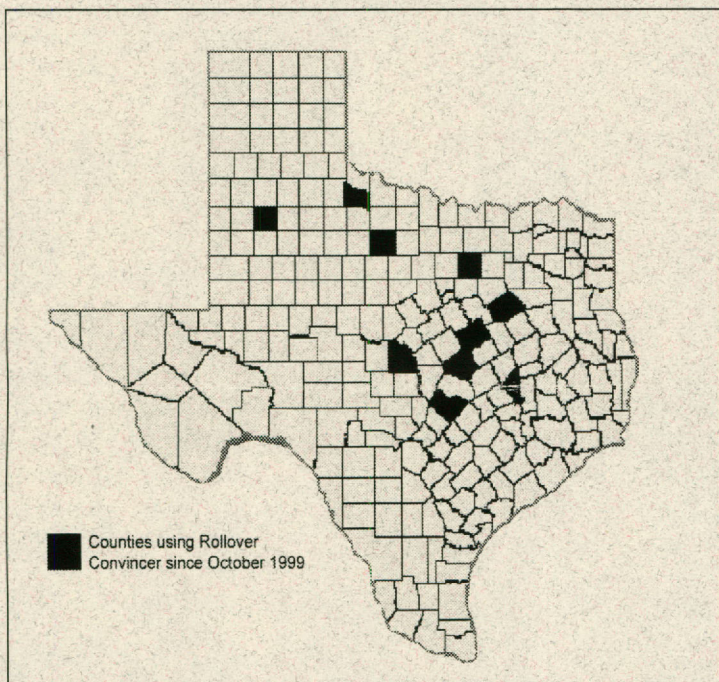


## Rollover Convincer

Both project convincers have been freshly painted, have new signs, and one of the convincer trailers has new tires. Thank you to all who made repairs on an as-needed basis. If any items are broken or need attention, please report the problem to Myrna Hill.

Approximately **141,230** Texans viewed the Rollover Convincers during fiscal year 1999. Thanks to everyone for excellent demonstrations and programs. Call Myrna Hill at 409-845-1104 to reserve the Rollover Convincer.

### PUT YOUR COUNTY ON THE MAP IN 2000!



Stacy Brown of Cochran County demonstrates the Rollover Convincer at the Farmer Stockman Show in October at Lubbock.

## Texas

The Federal Railroad Administration's final statistics for Texas in 1998 show 322 grade-crossing vehicle-train collisions, resulting in 45 deaths and 158 injuries. Compared to 1997, Texas posted a 24% decline in collisions, a 17% decline in deaths, and a 16% decline in injuries in 1998.

Texas continues to have more public and private at-grade crossing crashes than any other state: 12,278 and 6,200, respectively. According to the Railroad Commission of Texas, 10% of the grade crossing crashes occurred at private crossings.

The Railroad Commission of Texas' *Grade Crossing Facts for Year 1998* reports that vehicle-train collisions occurred at an average rate of 27 per month. Most

collisions, 70%, took place during daylight hours, 21% involved a vehicle driving into the side of a train, and in 57% of the crashes, the average train speed was 29 m.p.h. or less. More interesting statistics about vehicle-train collisions in the state from the Railroad Commission's publication include:

- 96% took place at crossings that had no visual obstructions impairing the motorist's view of the tracks
- 44% occurred at crossings equipped with active warning devices
- 42% took place at crossings marked only with the crossbuck sign

Source: *Railroad Commission of Texas and Texas Operation Lifesavers*, Bebe Allen, State Coordinator, 1999.



Winter weather travel hazards in Texas can vary from none at all to light patches of ice to full-blown blizzards. Traveling long distance in Texas requires both drivers and passengers to be knowledgeable and prepared.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) indicates that transportation crashes are the leading cause of death during winter storms. So, getting a vehicle ready for a winter trip is critical. Have a mechanic check the antifreeze levels, ignition system, battery, thermostat, lights, exhaust system, heater, brakes, and defroster. Take a look at wipers and windshield washer fluid, as well as the oil level (maybe change to a winter grade of oil). Make sure the tires are in good shape, with plenty of tread.

Plan long trips carefully, especially if wintery weather threatens. Check road conditions with the Texas Department of Transportation by calling 800-452-9292, or through the internet at: [www.dot.state.tx.us/hcr/main.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/hcr/main.htm).

If there is a threat of winter weather, take along a car safety kit, including a flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit, an extra blanket or two, an ice scraper, plastic bags, matches, rain gear, a small shovel, and booster cables. Also, take along some extra food and water, and let someone know of travel plans.

Watch out for winter road hazards. Potholes are often formed by winter freezes and thaws. *Black ice* is the name given to ice that forms on roads, bridges and overpasses when rain or drizzle freezes on the surface. Due to its shine, it looks like water on the road, but it produces the most slippery of all road conditions. It is likely to form first on bridges and overpasses, in shady spots and at intersections. To be safe, slow down and keep plenty of distance between cars. If the car begins to spin out of control, lift foot off the gas and shift to neutral. Steer in the direction of the skid. Then, before the rear wheels stop skidding, shift to drive and gently press the accelerator. Do not slam on the brakes.

In a severe winter storm, one could become trapped in a vehicle. Remember to stay in the vehicle unless help is very close. Raise the hood and display a trouble sign. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, and run the engine (with the heater on) for 10 minutes or so each hour to keep warm. Open a window slightly for ventilation. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Move around and exercise your arms and legs to keep circulation flowing. Huddle together for warmth, making use of any newspapers, maps or blankets. Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Don't over exert - shoveling snow can trigger a heart attack.

This winter, be ready for problems. Stay informed on the weather, remember the safety rules and enjoy your travel.

Source: Larry Eblen, National Weather Service, Austin/San Antonio 830-606-3617. 1999.

### Calling All Certified Technicians and Instructors!

The Rural Passenger Safety Project of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation is developing a database of certified technicians and instructors in Texas. The database is being established to increase networking and idea sharing among existing traffic safety contacts and to assist with locating certified technicians for checkup events.

To facilitate setting up this database, a waiver form is included in this newsletter. Please complete it, fold and mail it to the address on the back or fax it to Bev Kellner, Rural Passenger Safety Education, (409) 845-6496. The database will be available through a web site as well as a toll-free telephone number, which will be included in our next newsletter.

### Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference 2000



This year's Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference will be held June 10-14, 2000 at Arlington, TX. If your professional organization has a need for professional development units or continuing education credits, please contact Bev Kellner 409-862-1782 or email: [b-kellner@tamu.edu](mailto:b-kellner@tamu.edu) for further information.

## Cut It Out! ✂

Please complete the Waiver Form for Certified Technicians/Instructors and return to the address on back.

**WAIVER FOR RURAL PASSENGER SAFETY EDUCATION  
CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN/INSTRUCTOR DATABASE**

**What is the Rural Passenger Safety Education Project?**

The Rural Passenger Safety Education Project of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation is a comprehensive occupant protection project targeting citizens in rural Texas to increase safety restraint compliance. Therefore, the Rural Passenger Safety Education Project is developing a database and establishing a clearinghouse for certified technicians and instructors in the state of Texas. The clearinghouse will facilitate locating certified technicians for residents of rural communities as well as urban areas.

**What is the specific purpose of this database?**

The purpose of the database is to create a central repository of information on traffic safety contacts around the state. The database is being developed for two reasons: (1) to increase networking and idea sharing among existing traffic safety contacts and (2) to enable Texas Agricultural Extension Service's Rural Passenger Safety Project to share information about traffic safety contacts with individuals and organizations seeking information, such as the location of a certified technician in his/her region.

**How is it going to be made available?**

This database will be available via the World Wide Web. Those without web access may call Rural Passenger Safety Education on a toll-free number access to this information.

**What information is going to be made available?**

Please enter your contact information below as you would like it to appear in the database. If you would like to exclude certain information (i.e. phone number) from being available to the public and/or the Rural Passenger Safety Project, please leave that space blank. Please provide your technician I.D. number for internal use only. Identification numbers will not be made available to the public.

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	
Title	Organization		
Certified Technician <input type="checkbox"/>	Certification I.D. No.		
Certified Technician/Instructor <input type="checkbox"/>	Certification I.D. No.		
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone Number	Fax Number		
Email address			

Please read the following carefully and **check off each one that applies.**

- I understand that the information I provide will be listed in a database maintained by Rural Passenger Safety Education, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.
- I authorize Rural Passenger Safety Education, Texas Agricultural Extension Service to list my name, address and telephone number in this database to be shared with other individuals and organizations.
- I authorize my information to be accessible in the Rural Passenger Safety Education Certified Technician/Instructor Database on the World Wide Web.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Return completed form to:* Rural Passenger Safety Education, ATTN: Bev Kellner, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, 311 History Bldg., College Station, TX 77843-2251 or FAX to: (409) 845-6496



Rural Passenger Safety Education  
Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Texas A&M University System  
311 History Building  
College Station, TX 77843-2251

Rural Passenger Safety Education  
Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Texas A&M University System  
311 History Building  
College Station, TX 77843-2251  
Attn: Bev Kellner



# DROWSY DRIVING



A recent tragedy involving a drowsy driver going to sleep at the wheel, striking and killing six pedestrians walking on the shoulder of the road has brought national attention to the fact that one-sixth of all crashes are attributed to driver

inattention or lapses of attention. Sleepiness increases the likelihood of such lapses. Based on police crash report data, NHTSA estimates that about 100,000 crashes and 1,500 fatalities each year result from drivers falling asleep at the wheel.

Drivers at risk include young people who tend to stay up late, sleep too little, and drive frequently at night as well as rotation shift workers who work at night. Commercial drivers are also at risk because of the long distances, deadlines, and frequent night driving. According to the National Sleep Foundation, approximately 30 million Americans suffer from various undiagnosed sleep disorders such as chronic insomnia, sleep apnea, and narcolepsy. If you are regularly tired during the day you may have a sleep disorder and should seek medical attention.

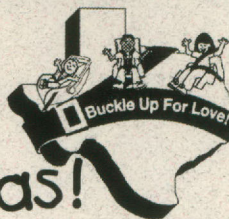
## Symptoms of Drowsy Driving/Fatigue:

- Eyes close or go out of focus by themselves.
- Experience trouble keeping head up.
- Can't stop yawning.
- Have wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- Don't remember driving the last few miles.
- Drift between lanes, tailgate, or miss traffic signs.
- Jerking the car back into the lane.
- Drifted off the road and narrowly missed crashing.

## Safety Tips for Staying Alert:

- ✓ Get a good night's sleep the night before a long trip.
- ✓ Avoid driving in mid-afternoon and between midnight and 6:00 a.m. These are usually "sluggish" times because the body is used to resting during this time.
- ✓ Talk with a passenger, listen to talk radio or talking books.
- ✓ Eat light meals prior to or during your travel time. Use stimulating beverages like coffee, tea, or other caffeinated drinks. (Chew gum or nibble on sunflower seeds.)
- ✓ Take regular breaks from driving. Never drive more than 100 miles or two hours without changing drivers or without taking a break.
- ✓ Be aware of medications that cause drowsiness.
- ✓ Know the signs of driving fatigue.

# Child Safety Seat Inspections in Texas!



## Ellis County

**Rain or shine...** Dark storm clouds moving over the Wal-Mart parking lot did not deter parents from getting child safety seats checked at Waxahachie on August 3, 1999. Thanks to county agent Sharon Amelunke's efforts in getting the word out, a total of 20 seats were checked in a short amount of time before tornado-like wind and rain forced the checkup event to close. One seat was on the recall list; 2 seats had been involved in crashes; and a total of 16 seats were given out. The inclement weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of Sharon's volunteers and participating parents.

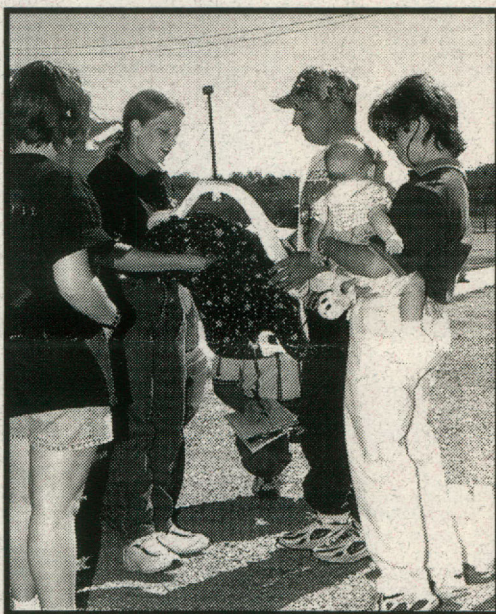
## Andrews County

**A day at the fair...** A child safety seat checkup event was held in conjunction with the Andrews Health Fair on September 11, 1999. Former Andrews county agent Brenda Rue did the spring planning for this event and new county agent, Tracy Lowrey, completed final preparations and hosted the checkup event. The large turnout for the Health Fair helped bring the total of child safety seats checked to 50. Two of the seats were recalled, 1 seat had been involved in a crash and 33 seats were given out. Tracy's hard working volunteers helped to make a difference in the lives of the children who attended the event.

## Fayette County

**Reaching those in need...** County agent Sally Garrett's enthusiasm for Child Passenger Safety projects was

evident at the Fayette County Safety Seat Checkup Event held in the Wal-Mart parking lot at La Grange on October 23, 1999. In addition to educating parents on proper installation procedures, information was made available regarding the county's safety seat loaner program. A total of 49



child safety seats were checked. Fourteen unsafe seats were destroyed and 29 new safety seats were given away, 3 of which were from the loaner program. Not one child entered the event correctly restrained, but all children left in the appropriate child safety seat.

## Brazoria County

**Even on a weekday...** Brazoria County had a large turnout November 3, 1999 at Lake Jackson. Even though the event was scheduled on a weekday, a total of 60 seats were checked. Remarkably, one child entered the event with the safety seat installed correctly. Alma's super

volunteers, including her husband, Trooper Abe Fonseca, worked steadily to make this event a great success.

## Jefferson County

**A whopping 76!** Sandra Henson, county agent in Jefferson County, did an excellent job in promoting the Child Safety Seat Checkup Event in Beaumont, September 25, 1999. The high turnout did not phase the technicians who worked steadily to get 76 children restrained correctly. There were no seats installed correctly, six seats were on recall and 4 seats had been involved in crashes. Thirty-one seats were given to families where there was non-use or a child safety seat needed to be replaced. The behind the scene hours of preparation were evident as Sandra's outstanding volunteers kept the event running smoothly.

## Cottle County


**No Community Too Small...** Beth Whitener, county agent, who serves both Cottle and King counties, took the initiative to provide a child safety seat checkup event in Paducah, August 7, 1999. Despite the high temperatures typical of a late summer Texas day, parents turned out for the event. One young mother arrived at the event with an unrestrained 6 month old infant next to her on the front seat of her pickup. A total of 11 seats were checked, 1 seat was on the recall list, and 9 seats were given to correct misuse or no use situations. A special thanks goes to the efforts of Beth Whitener and her family.

### Update from Ft. Hood....

Congratulations to Alicia Martinez, Ft. Hood Extension agent on successfully completing the Child Passenger Safety Technician course in October. The class was sponsored by USAA.

ALCOHOL  
LIMIT  
**.08**

The legal limit for intoxication  
has been lowered to .08

 Save a Life™  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## TIMELY TIPS NEW into the Millennium

### December 1999

- ⊕ National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month
- ⊕ 12/11/99 Child/Safety Seat Checkup Colorado County, 10 am - 2pm  
Contact Amy Ervin, County Extension Agent

### January 2000

- ⊕ 1/22/00 Child/Safety Seat Checkup Burleson County, 10 am - 2pm  
Contact Carolyn Smith, County Extension Agent

### February 2000

- ⊕ 2/11/00 Child/Safety Seat Checkup Wharton County, 2 pm - 6 pm  
Contact Marilyn Sebesta, County Extension Agent
- ⊕ 2/13-19/00 National Child Passenger Safety Week
- ⊕ 2/21-25/00 NHTSA Child Safety Seat Technician Training Ft. Worth

## RESOURCES ON THE WWW

The Y2K situation has been addressed in previous newsletters and extensively by media. In light of that, this section of the newsletter will return to the original format of providing web sites that team members have checked out. We will include some previous web sites for the benefit of those new to the newsletter.



### Road to Kids' Safe Web Sites



[http://www.governor.state.tx.us/kids/kids\\_index.html](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/kids/kids_index.html)

This site is sponsored by Office of the Governor, State of Texas and contains some interesting information for children as well as adults.



<http://nhtsa.dot.gov/kids/>

This is NHTSA's kids site and is interactive, lots of fun!



<http://www.smokeybear.com/>

This site is from the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters and features Smokey the Bear. Loads of fun!



<http://www.ottoclub.org/>

The "Otto Club" is the American Automobile association's award-winning web site for kids. Children can learn about various aspects of traffic safety.

### Drunk Driving Web Site



<http://www.madd.org>

National Mothers Against Drunk Driving

### Drowsy Driving Web Site



<http://www.aaafoundation.org/Text/Quizzes.htm>

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety



<http://www.sleepfoundation.org/>

National Sleep Foundation

The newsletter, *On The Road With...* is produced by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Rural Passenger Safety Education Project in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation.

### **Rural Passenger Safety Team:**

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Bev Kellner, Technical Editor  
Myrna Hill, Contributing Writer  
Janie Harris  
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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



Rural Passenger Safety Education  
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