

Seat Belts and Car Seats are only the Beginning!

Every year, the Chino Valley Independent Fire District responds to numerous traffic collisions which involve children. The Fire District focuses on preventing many types of injuries; such as, drowning, falls, poisoning, and choking. According to the National Fire Protection Association, motor vehicle crashes are by far the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths for children ages 5 to 15.

The Fire District wishes everyone to have a safe trip; whether it's to Grandma's house, the grocery store, or just around the corner. Here are some safety guidelines to make each trip a safe ride:

- Drive safe, obey all traffic laws, and keep focused on the road.
- Children **MUST** be secured in an appropriate child safety or booster seat until they are at least 6 years old or weigh at least 60 pounds.
- Use a car seat every time! Infants should ride rear facing until age one and at least 20 pounds.
- The harness straps should be at or below the infant's shoulders and should fit the infant snugly. The strap should lie flat across the chest without twisting. The harness chest clip should be placed at the armpit level. This keeps the harness straps positioned properly across the child's body.
- A properly installed child safety seat reduces the risk of death by 71 percent for infants.
- When installing a car seat, read the instructions and the owner manual for your vehicle. It has great information on child restraint systems and vehicle seat belts.
- If you need assistance installing a car seat in your vehicle, call **(800) 774-7237** to find a certified car seat technician in your community or visit your local California Highway Patrol office.