



# Town of Falmouth

## Fire-EMS Department

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### **NEWS RELEASE - 2009-01**

**For Immediate Release: January 16, 2009**

**For Further Information, contact Chief Howard Rice, Jr. at 207-781-2610**

#### **Falmouth Fire-EMS Department Receives \$10,000 Highway Safety Grant**

The Falmouth Fire-EMS Department has received a \$10,000 grant from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety to conduct child passenger safety outreach activities. Activities will include community car seat checkup events, continuing education classes for child passenger safety technicians and a National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification class.

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Director, Lauren Stewart, is excited to partner with the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department on the grant. "I am pleased to be able to work together with such a well-trained and dedicated agency in the area of child passenger safety", states Stewart. "Child passenger safety is a very important issue in our state."

"Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of childhood injuries and deaths," states Suzanne Cook, the Office Administrator at Falmouth Fire-EMS who is also a firefighter/EMT and a certified child passenger safety technician-instructor. "Children are best protected with properly used car seats and boosters seats. However, the vast majority of car seats are not being used properly", Cook states. During 2008, 319 car seats were checked at the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department, with only 9, or 3%, found to be installed properly. Common errors found are not having the car seat harness straps snug, and not securing the car seat firmly enough to the vehicle.

Falmouth Fire-EMS Chief Howard Rice, Jr. is committed to supporting activities that improve the safety of the community. "Keeping kids buckled up correctly reduces injuries and increases their chances of surviving a crash," states Rice.

The Falmouth Fire-EMS Department currently conducts free car seat inspections every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Central Station, 8 Bucknam Road. For additional information, call 207-781-2610 or visit <http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/fire> .