



Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
8 Bucknam Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
Business 207-781-2610
Fax 207-699-5268

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

Falmouth Fire-EMS Department Receives \$150,000 Highway Safety Grant

The Falmouth Fire-EMS Department has received a \$150,000 grant from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety to conduct child passenger safety outreach activities. Activities include conducting child passenger safety technician certification classes, technical update classes and car seat checkup events at various locations throughout the state. A schedule of events can be found at www.buckleupmaine.org

"Car seats do an amazing job at keeping children safe in the event of a crash," states Suzanne Grace, a Firefighter/EMT-I at Falmouth Fire-EMS who is also a certified child passenger safety technician-instructor and the state child passenger safety training coordinator. "When used properly, car seats can reduce the risk of injury death by up to 71% but parents often need assistance and education in order to use the seats correctly", Grace states. During 2009, the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department inspected 434 car seats. Some common errors found were not having the car seat harness straps snug and not installing the car seat tight enough in the vehicle.

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Director, Lauren Stewart, believes that child passenger safety is an important part of the state's highway safety plan. "Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death of children. Programs that educate parents on the safest method to transport their children will reduce this risk", Stewart states.

Falmouth Fire-EMS Chief Howard Rice, Jr. is proud to have child passenger safety as part of the department's priorities. "We are once again pleased to partner with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety to bring this important information to our public", Rice states.

The Falmouth Fire-EMS Department currently conducts free car seat inspections every 1st 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 www.town.falmouth.me.us/fire

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