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## **NEWS RELEASE - 2023-02**

**For Immediate Release: April 21, 2023**

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

### **Falmouth Fire-EMS to Host Child Safety Seat Event**

FALMOUTH, Maine— Falmouth Fire-EMS will host a FREE child passenger safety seat event on Saturday, April 29, from 10am-1pm at Central Fire Station (8 Bucknam Rd.) in Falmouth. Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available to install and educate attendees on new car seats or can inspect currently installed car seats for safety requirements.

Researchers who observed children riding in cars in a 2011 study estimated that 46% of car seats and booster seats are used incorrectly in a way that could reduce their effectiveness. Car seat misuse estimates are even higher at 59% when booster seats are excluded. The risk of serious injuries and death can be reduced by making sure children are properly buckled in car seats, booster seats, and seat belts that are appropriate for their age and size.

Maine's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) law requires that:

- Children who weigh less than 40 lbs. must ride in a child safety seat;
- Children who weigh at least 40 lbs., but less than 80 lbs. and less than 8 yrs. old, ride in a federally approved child restraint system;
- Children who are more than 8 yrs. old and less than 18 yrs. old and more than 4 feet 9 inches in height should be properly secured in a safety belt and;
- A child under 12 yrs. old and who weighs less than 100 lbs. is properly secured in the back seat of the vehicle, if possible.

“Not only is it the law, but car seat and booster seat use reduces the risk for injury in a crash when compared with seat belt use alone,” noted Falmouth's Deputy Fire Chief, Colin Shea. “It's important that these seats are installed correctly to ensure their effectiveness in the event of an accident.”

Appointments are not required at the event on April 29, but are recommended. Space is limited. For more information and sign-up, visit: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48adaf2caafd0-carseat#/. Scroll to the bottom of the page to reserve an appointment.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48adaf2caafd0-carseat#/)

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