



## News from the Fire Department

Did you know that 96% of parents and caregivers believe their child safety seats are installed correctly, and that nearly 70% of drivers believe it is safe for children age eight or under to no longer be secured in a child safety or booster seat?

Research shows that seven out of 10 children are improperly restrained and that only 21% of children age four to eight are "at least on occasion" riding in a booster seat while traveling in a passenger vehicle.



While children of all ages are safest when properly restrained in the back seat, six out of 10 drivers of children age 12 or under believe it is safe for children age 12 or under to sit in the front seat, in front of a passenger air bag, and more than one in 10 children under 80 pounds are completely unrestrained when riding in vehicles.

To help bring about improvement to these statistics and improve our communities safety seat awareness and local use, the West Bloomfield Fire Department is pleased to announce that it is now offering personalized safety and booster seat installation assistance and education services for the residents of West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake. Group educational services are also available.

As part of this safety initiative the fire department is hopeful it can directly increase the safety of our children and raise the safety awareness levels of our parents and the driving community as a whole.

Some of the most common mistakes with child safety seats are:

- Not using the right child safety seats for a child's size and age;
- Not placing the child safety seat in the correct direction;
- Incorrect installation of the child safety seat in relation to the vehicle's air bags;
- Incorrect installation and tightness of the child safety seat to the vehicle seat;
- Not securing or tightening the child safety seat's harness and crotch straps;
- Improper use of locking clips for certain vehicle safety belts;
- Not making sure the vehicle's seat belts fit properly across the child when using a booster seat; and
- Using a defective or broken child safety seat.



To learn more about child safety or booster seats or to schedule a personalized educational installation session with our Community Services Unit, please contact Fire Administration at 248-409-1505. To ensure the best possible experience for our residents all safety sessions are by appointment only.

