



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2015

Conewango Township Police Department Participating in Pilot Child Car Seat Enforcement Mobilization

Child Passenger Safety Week September 13 to 19

Oil City, PA – The Conewango Township Police Department has been chosen as one of 24 agencies across the state to participate a pilot program aimed at educating adults on the proper use of child passenger car seats.

The program is part of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Buckle Up PA's annual Child Passenger Safety Week slated for September 13 to 19.

Pennsylvania law requires children under the age of 8 to be buckled into an appropriate car or booster seat whenever traveling in a vehicle. Youth age 8 to 18 must be in a seat belt regardless of where they are sitting in the vehicle.

"For increased safety, I encourage parents, grandparents and other adults caring for a child to follow all the best practice recommendations," said Conewango Township Police Chief Jason Peters. "That means keeping infants and toddlers in rear-facing seats, using booster seats passed the age of 8, and always having children ride in the back seat."

In 2013, traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for children age 4 and the second leading cause for children ages 3 and 5 to 14. On average, three out of four car seats are used incorrectly.

The proper use of a car seat in a passenger car reduces the risk of fatal injuries during a traffic crash by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers.

As part of their enforcement effort, Conewango Township Police Officers will be conducting roving patrols and hosting information sessions throughout the week of September 13. They will be watching for children not properly buckled into seats, riding in incorrect seats, or not wearing a seat belt – all primary traffic offenses.

The department will hold a community Car Seat Safety Check from noon to 5 PM Saturday, September 19 at the police station. Nationally Certified Car Seat Technicians will be on hand to inspect car and booster seats, make sure the seats are properly secured in the vehicle and children are buckled up correctly.

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