

IFAS Extension

PRESS RELEASE

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Free Child Car Seat Checkup

UF/IFAS Extension Santa Rosa County and Pace Fire Rescue is hosting a free child car seat checkup on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Walmart parking lot located at 4965 Highway 90 in Pea Ridge. Installing a car seat for younger children and babies can be a challenge. As many as seven out of 10 children in child safety seats are not properly secured or buckled. Parents and guardians of children infant to 12 years of age are encouraged to stop by and have a certified child passenger safety technician check to make sure car seats are installed correctly and learn how to use and install a car seat properly.

During the car seat checkup, technicians will:

- Ensure that your car seat is appropriate for your child's age, and size, and review factors affecting proper use.
- Review the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to ensure that both are being followed correctly.
- Ensure that an appropriate seating position in the vehicle is being used.
- Check the car seat for recalls, visible damage and an expiration date.
- Watch you install the car seat(s) correctly using either the seat belt or LATCH system.
- Discuss the next steps for each child, such as when to graduate to the next type of car seat.

According to the National Center for Health statistics, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children of every age from two to 14 years old. In many cases, children are either not properly buckled into their safety seats or parents do not realize that a booster seat is vital to ensuring children fit safely in their vehicle's seat belt.

For more information contact Ginny Hinton at (850) 623-3868 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays or via email at ginnyh@santarosa.fl.gov.

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