



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ventura County Fire receives grant for Child Passenger Safety Education and Training Program

CAMARILLO, CA - Ventura County Fire has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to expand the department's Child Passenger Safety Program.

Together with Safe Kids Ventura County and Ventura County Public Health, the fire department works to provide hands-on training to parents and caregivers aimed at helping them make sure their child is riding safely.

"Installing a car seat is not a one size fits all model. There are hundreds of types on the market and each one is different," commented Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen. "This programs gives us an opportunity to teach parents how to use the right car seat and in the right way to keep kids safe in the car."

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. Additionally, three out of four car seats are not used or installed correctly. Research shows when installed correctly, child safety seats and safety belts can prevent injuries and save lives by as much as 71 percent.

Funding from this grant will go toward a variety of activities to promote occupant safety and decrease injuries and deaths due to improper use of car seats and boosters. This will be accomplished through child seat safety check-ups and inspections, more education for parents and caregivers, extra hands-on trainings, child passenger safety technician training and recertification training, and the purchase of car seats to provide to low-income residents.

This marks the second year the County has received funding for its program from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information, contact VCFD's Public Information Office at (805) 389-9769 or visit vcfd.org/child-passenger-education-installation.

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