

State Leaders To Celebrate Child Passenger Safety Week
GHSP Director and Insurance Commissioner remind families to buckle up children

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What: North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Week press events and clinics

When: 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 14, Lowe's Home Improvement, 1255 Western Blvd., Jacksonville
(Child Passenger Safety Clinic to follow, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

RALEIGH - The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is again providing Valentines in the form of child safety seats to North Carolina's most vulnerable motorists - our child passengers.

GHSP Director Darrell Jernigan will restate his commitment to provide low-cost safety seats to needy North Carolina families during a North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Week (Feb. 13-19) press event at 10:30 a.m., Monday at the Lowe's Home Improvement store in Jacksonville. He will be joined by Insurance Commissioner Jim Long, chairman of North Carolina SAFE KIDS, and Sgt. Joel Siles, Traffic Safety Information Officer with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

Before the January 1 effective date of the upgraded child passenger safety law, Jernigan announced that the GHSP had dedicated \$150,000 to provide booster seats to qualified North Carolina families. That is in addition to the \$300,000 previously committed to purchase infant and convertible safety seats.

The new law requires children up to age 8 or weighing less than 80 pounds to ride in a booster seat before graduating to an adult safety belt. All children up to age 16 must ride in an appropriate restraint device, regardless of seating position. Drivers cited for failure to ensure that children are safely restrained face a \$25 fine, \$100 court costs, and two driver license points.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday at the store parking lot to inspect safety seats and ensure that they are properly installed. The event is open to the public.

Jernigan and Long will unite again at 12 noon Wednesday, Feb. 16, for a Child Passenger Safety Week event in Raleigh. A collection of outdated and unsafe safety seats will be arranged in a heart shape on the parking lot of Alltel Pavilion in Raleigh prior to being crushed in a trash compactor. The event is meant to remind families to never use old, recalled or hand-me-down safety seats.

A child passenger safety clinic will follow this event as well, from 1-3 p.m. It also is open to the public.

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For information about this or other North Carolina highway safety issues, contact Don Nail at 919-733-3083, or visit our Web site at: www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp

For a statewide schedule of child passenger safety clinics, contact Kristin Runger at the Department of Insurance, 919-733-5238, or visit the North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Resource Center Web site at: www.buckleupnc.org/contacts_events.cfm