

Correct use of car seats improves child safety

Child safety restraints, better known as car seats, is an often misunderstood topic. Many of us who grew up without safety restraints don't recognize the significant impact their correct use makes on a child's safety.

Statistics released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration give a vivid picture of the effectiveness of child safety seats. Among newborns to children 1 year of age, motor vehicle crashes is the eighth leading cause of death.

Generally speaking, most infants are safely restrained in a child safety seat that is rear facing and properly installed. As the child begins to



karen merryman

• smart start

grow and challenge the restraint, parents and other caregivers often become more lax in enforcing and monitoring proper installation and use of the child seat.

The cause of death jumps to third among toddlers ages 1 to 3 and first in children ages 4 through 15.

Far too many of us do not take the

time to properly ensure that these older children are safe when riding in our vehicles.

Kansas recently joined the states across the nation which require

older children to be properly restrained in a booster seat.

As of July 1st, children between the ages of 4 and 8 weighing less than eighty pounds and less than 4'9" are required to be restrained in a booster seat. This law has caused some controversy and much discussion.

The statistics, however, show clear evidence that for the safety of the child, proper restraint is vital. This may be a good time to alleviate some of the confusion regarding the types of child safety restraints, their proper installation and little known facts about replacement.

Rear facing infant seats are used for children birth to age 1 and weighing under 20 pounds. Forward-facing toddler seats are the proper restraint for children ages 1 to 4 between 20 and 40 pounds in weight.

Booster seats are used for children ages 4 through 8 weighing less than 80 pounds and under 4'9". All

child safety restraints should be placed correctly in the rear seat of the vehicle. Air bags make placement of these restraints in the front seat extremely dangerous.

Correct installation of the child safety restraint is imperative in order to fully protect the child. Many parents move the car seat from vehicle to vehicle without ensuring that they are properly installed each and every time they are moved.

Improper installation may be as hazardous as no restraint at all. The location of the child restraint, as well as a snug fit, is vital to provide the safety these seats are designed for.

To check proper installation, take the child safety restraint in both hands and try to forcefully move the seat from side to side and front to back. There should be no more than one inch give in the movement.

The child seat should be at a 45

degree angle. For instructions on installation, or to have your child safety seat inspected go to www.nhtsa.dot.gov or contact the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Many parents and grandparents try to cut costs by purchasing child seats at garage sales or second hand stores. Due to sun and heat damage, the life expectancy of a child safety restraint is only five years.

Safety seats that have been involved in a vehicle accident are also potentially at risk. They must be inspected carefully after only a minor accident and should never be reused after a major accident. This makes purchasing them second hand inadvisable.

Smart Start will be providing money for a limited number of area citizens to become trained and certified child safety restraint installers. If you would be interested in the training, call us at (785) 465-9103.

Concrete added to intersection



Workers from Miller Construction smoothed cement from Schlosser's Concrete at the corner of 12th and Main. The last of the cement was poured on Friday morning. The bricks will arrive in August. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Tomato is favorite, also a problem spot

The tomato is by far the most popular garden plant out there. I saw a recent study, and it greatly surpasses anything else in the garden in popularity.

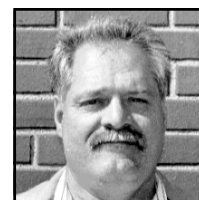
We all enjoy that fresh-garden taste of vine-ripe tomatoes, but the tomato also ranks right at the top in the "what is wrong with my garden?" category.

Several things can besiege tomatoes, and we are usually on the lookout for whatever the problem may be.

Tomato leaves curling starts to show up early in the season. This happens when tomato plants grow vigorously in mild spring weather — the top growth often exceeds root development.

When the first few days of warm, dry summer weather hit, the plant "realizes" that it has a problem and needs to increase its root development. The plant tries to reduce its leaf area by rolling leaves.

The leaves curl along the length



dana belshe

• ag notebook

of the leaf (leaflet) in an upward fashion. It is often accompanied by a thickening of the leaf, giving it a leathery texture. Leaf roll is worse on some varieties than others.

Though rolling usually occurs during the spring-to-summer shift, it may also occur after a heavy cultivating or hoeing, a hard rain or any sudden change in weather.

Excess moisture from rain or over watering can have the same effect by saturating the soil and suffocate the roots. A root system lacking in oxygen cannot move water to the upper parts of the plant, resulting in the same symptoms that occur with too little soil moisture or a limited root system.

This leaf roll is a temporary condition that goes away after a week or so when the plant has a chance to acclimate or recover from injury or the soil has a chance to dry out.

E-mail from 'soldier' a scam, not link to Saddam Hussein's wealth

Dear Attorney General Kline: Recently received an e-mail, supposedly from a soldier serving in Iraq, who claimed to have access to \$8 million, which was part of a treasure seized from one of the mansions of Saddam Hussein. His proposition was to give me a "cut" of this money if I would help him in getting it into accounts here in the United States. I've never heard of anything like this before. Is this a scam?

Dear Kansas Consumer: The simple answer is yes, this is most definitely a scam. It is yet another form of what has come to be known as the "Nigerian letter" scam or the "4-1-9" scam, which is the telephone area code for Nigeria.

This particular version of the Nigerian scam is not at all new. It was first discovered about three years



phill kline

• attorney general

ago, shortly after United States forces were engaged in combat in Iraq.

Each message appeared to be from a military e-mail address from troops deployed in Iraq. There were several different elaborate e-mail scam messages at that time which were very convincing, some of which even included photographs of tables full of cash.

In each case, the sender described needing assistance in getting the money out of the country and in turn offered to pay a substantial amount

of money to those who would agree to help these servicemen.

The details may vary, but in the Nigerian scam, con artists entice their victims into believing they have been singled out to share in multi-million dollar windfalls.

Usually, a company or individual receives an unsolicited letter or e-mail from someone from Nigeria claiming to be a high-ranking government official.

The letter informs the recipient that he is looking for a reliable individual into whose account he can deposit this money, which is actually "government" money supposedly overpaid on a contract. In return, the recipient is allowed to keep a share of the millions.

But the dream of cashing in on this scam never materializes. What usually occurs is that the recipient provides his bank account information and his phone number and is asked to wait a few weeks.

He is then informed there has been a delay and is asked to put up a few thousand dollars to help "smooth out the process."

The money is sent and a few weeks later, it's the same story: more money is needed. This pattern continues until there are no more calls and the recipient has been scammed out of several thousand dollars, which most likely will not be recovered.

This type of scam has been around, in one form or another, since the 1920's. In addition to the

United States soldier e-mail scam which you received, other recent forms specifically target religious organizations claiming someone has left them a fortune or from someone claiming they have won a foreign lottery.

But no matter what form this particular scam takes, the result is always the same: potential victims are asked to use some of their own money up front and the scammer takes it, never to be heard from again.

If you receive one of these offers, contact my Consumer Protection Division at (800) 432-2310. Keep copies of all letters and documents, especially wire instructions and telephone numbers if possible.

Also, be sure to tell your family and friends what to watch for and what you've seen. It is important that Kansans protect one another, especially the elderly and other vulnerable citizens.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

INVITE TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the City of Goodland, Kansas will receive sealed bids for computers and computer parts as one bid selection and bicycles and bicycle parts as the second bid selection at the Office of the City Manager until 11:00 A. M., Mountain Daylight Time, Wednesday July 12, 2006, and at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

All Items are available for viewing by contacting the office of Chief R. L. Smee, Chief of Police, 204 West 11th Street, Goodland, Kansas, 67735.

Each bidder must submit with his/her bid a Bid Bond, Certified Check or Bank Draft in the amount of five percent (5%) of his/her proposal.

The City of Goodland reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

CITY OF GOODLAND
204 WEST 11th STREET, GOODLAND, KANSAS 67735

COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER PARTS FOR SEALED BID

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 15 | CPU's |
| 1 | 13" monitor |
| 5 | printers |
| 1 | printer/fax |
| 1 | fax |
| 1 | power station |
| 2 | 15" monitors work |
| 2 | 17" monitors work |

Numerous Keyboards, mouse, cables, and miscellaneous parts
Miscellaneous telephone parts

Bidder is bidding on the lot and successful bidder will take all parts and pieces

BICYCLES AND PARTS FOR SEALED BID

Approximately 60 bicycles and parts of various sizes colors and makes. Some of the bicycles are in working order and others are not. 10, 12, 18, 21 speed bicycles just to name a few. Both girls and boys bikes.

Bidder is bidding on the lot and successful bidder will take all parts and pieces.

Shop Burlington for all your needs



Health Essentials

Natural Foods, Vitamins,
Massage Therapy,
Acupuncture & More

Natural Living Cottage
& Wellness Center

314 14th Street, Burlington, Co.
719-346-4681



Advertising
pays give
Anne
a call today.

785-899-2338