



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LOCAL SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOOTH AT DISNEY'S "A CHRISTMAS CAROL TRAIN TOUR"

(OLATHE, KS – **AUGUST 21, 2009**) Safe Kids Johnson County, Children's Mercy Hospital, Safe Kids Metro Kansas City and the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) are working together to make sure the public understand the importance of always making sure their children are safe and secure in the right child passenger safety seats by offering free child passenger safety information at Disney's "A Christmas Carol" Train Tour at Union Station in Kansas City on Tuesday, August 25 from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Staffed by trained Child Passenger Safety Technicians, parents and caregivers can ask questions and receive expert answers on car seat safety. Attendees can also view a "Challenger Seat" demonstration on proper vehicle restraint and what happens when a child is improperly restrained.

According to the NHTSA, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages three to six-- in part because three out of four child passenger safety seats are not being used correctly. Crashes also are the leading cause of death for children ages eight to 15.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers should refer to the following *Four Steps for Kids* guidelines for determining which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

Step 1 - Rear-Facing Seats

For the best possible protection, keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age one and at least 20 pounds.

Step 2 - Forward-Facing Seats

When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age one and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age four and 40 pounds).

Step 3 - Booster Seats

Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age four and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age eight or when they are 4'9" tall).

Step 4 - Seat Belts

When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age eight or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

Disney's "A Christmas Carol" Train Tour boasts an Amtrak train filled with snow, carolers, decorations, and lots of giveaways that will stop at Union Station to introduce their upcoming holiday film, *A Christmas Carol* starring Jim Carrey. *Disney's A Christmas Carol* opens in theaters November 6 in Disney Digital 3D and in IMAX 3D. During the 24-week tour, the Disney train will make 40 stops in 36 states, as it makes its way over more than 16,000 miles of track to promote the Charles Dickens tale, *A Christmas Carol*.

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