

*Harrisonburg*  
VIRGINIA



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## **Education and Enforcement the Focus During National Child Passenger Safety Week**

Harrisonburg, VA - September 15-21 has been designated "National Child Passenger Safety Week", and is dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride as safe as possible every time they are in vehicles. Education and enforcement will be the focus of the Harrisonburg Police Department through extra patrols designed to identify violations, and provide assistance to ensure passengers, especially children, are protected when in motor vehicles.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old, and it's important for families to know how to correctly secure their child, and identify and correct mistakes when using car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.

"There's danger on the road every time you leave your home," says HPD Motor Officer Greg Deeds. "The best way to protect your child is to have him or her in the right seat for the child's age and size - and to use that seat correctly," Deeds added.

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In addition to extra patrols, there will also be free car seat inspections and education offered throughout the week at area venues. Child seat technicians from the Harrisonburg Fire Department will be available to provide free, hands-on, car seat inspections and provide assistance on how to choose the right car seats for children and how to install them correctly (See attached for list of locations and times).

"Children depend on you to keep them safe, and having your child's seat properly installed provides that extra measure of safety, and gives parents and caregivers peace of mind," states Child Safety Seat technician Ariel Rodriguez.

HPD urges everyone to help reduce injuries and the tragic loss of life by buckling up themselves and their children - every trip, every time.

For more information on car seat and child car safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website, or go to [safercar.gov/parents](http://safercar.gov/parents).