

Child Seat Belt Patrols Return to Grays Harbor County

Local News

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Grays Harbor County – From March 17 to March 23, extra grant-funded law enforcement patrols will be on the lookout for unrestrained or improperly restrained children in vehicles. The law enforcement officers who are participating in the emphasis patrols have been through intensive child passenger safety training, some of whom are certified car seat technicians.

Participating in this first-ever effort to reduce child car seat violations and improve child passenger safety are the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office, and the Aberdeen, Montesano, Hoquiam and Elma Police Departments.

These patrols are part of a pilot project focusing on child car seat violations in four counties throughout Washington State. The Grays Harbor Traffic Safety Task Force received an \$83,500 grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to conduct a pilot project to publicize Washington's child car seat law and fund additional law enforcement patrols of the law.

For the best protection of children and to abide by the law, parents should try to adhere to the following when buckling up their child:

Child ages: 0 – at least 12 months and at least 20 pounds – use a rear-facing infant seat. Keep your child rear-facing as long as your child car seat allows.

Age: 13 months to age four – use a child car seat with a five-point harness.

Age: four to 4'9" tall – use a booster seat. Boosters should only be placed with a lap and shoulder belt.

Age: up to age 13 – children must ride in the rear seat of the vehicle.

The local pilot project is coordinated by The Grays Harbor County Traffic Safety Task Force. Similar

projects are running in the Spokane, Moses Lake, and Wenatchee areas.

Parents needing more information about correctly installing their child car seat or about this project can call Susan Bradbury at 360.249.3711 x576 or visit www.800buckleup.org.