

# CTRAFFIC SAFETY Connection



March 2008

Connecting Oregon's Community Traffic Safety Advocates

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## A Mean Mom?

Jane Hambleton of Fort Dodge, Iowa, age 48, found alcohol in her 19-year-old son's car. To teach the kid a lesson, she decided to sell the car. Here's the ad she placed in the Des Moines Register:

"Olds 1999 Intrigue. Totally uncool parents who obviously don't love teenage son, selling his car. Only driven for three weeks before snoopy mom who needs to get a life found booze under front seat. \$3,700/offer. Call meanest mom on the planet."

She quickly sold the car and at the same time became a local celebrity.

## 2006 Oregon Crash Statistics

- 45,017 total motor vehicle crashes in Oregon
- 417 resulted in fatalities
- 158 of the fatal crashes sited drinking as a contributing factor
- 477 people died
- 115 of those people were between the ages of 15 to 24

Data from the 2006 Oregon Traffic Crash Summary, June 2007.



## Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy

This year ACTS Oregon received many innovative project applications for the Building Safer Communities Mini-Grant program. One of the successful applicants included Harriet Tubman Leadership Academy for Young Women. The application was catalyzed by a teacher at the school who is a bicycle safety advocate.



Kathy Smith is the Health/PE Teacher at the academy and the project director for the application. Kathy is looking to launch a bike safety program at the school. Over time she has been able to acquire a bike fleet and storage space at the school. Part of Kathy's plan is to partner with the local elementary school, Boise-Elliot. The hope is that the older girls from the academy will acquire the skills and education necessary to become mentors to the younger children at Boise-Elliot.

Kathy plans to start working with the kids in the Spring. In the meantime she is collecting data on the number of children that currently walk and bike to school. In addition she is performing walk and bike ability audits. Kathy hopes to not only encourage the girls to bike to school by way of safe cycling education but teach them the skills required to maintain their bicycles. It is wonderful to have children safely riding to school but it is important to ensure that the equipment

## Grants

The Building Safer Communities grants are becoming more and more active as we get closer to dry weather. Along with Harriet Tubman and their work with youth, Sheba Wooddell, Hubbard Police Department, has begun her grant work involving youth as well. Sheba has been implementing her traffic safety education in the

they rely on to get them there is mechanically sound.

The launch of a bicycle safety program could not come at a more valuable time. Today, fewer children are walking and biking and more parents are driving. In 1969, 42% of children 5 to 18 years of age walked or bicycled to school—in 2001, the rate fell to 16%. This trend of children replacing a routine of physical activity with motor-powered transportation has led to lifestyle changes that impact children, families,

schools, neighborhoods and the broader community. Less foot-powered transportation means more motor vehicle traffic around schools, leading to increased traffic congestion which negatively impacts the walking and bicycling environment.

Harriet Tubman Academy alongside the determination of Kathy are moving to preserve and enhance their cycling and motor powered community. Through education and encouragement the program looks to develop not only safe cyclists but safe drivers as well. Many of the students participating in the program are on the brink of receiving their permits. A cyclist that is constantly aware of their surroundings, signals turns and lane changes, doesn't follow too close, and ensures that they are visible to other commuters, hopefully will promote courteous driving when in a motor vehicle. ACTS Oregon looks forward to promoting the successes of this program in the future.

driver's education classes at schools within Marion County. Sheba is also in the planning stages for the second annual Hubbard Safety Village.

Bicycle Safety Mini-Grants are in the process of final approval and contract formation. ACTS Oregon is excited at the opportunity to support the cycling community.

# ACTS Oregon

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# Traumatic Brain Injury—Kids and Wheels



In a major study on traumatic brain injury and wheel-related sports, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign found that nearly 51 percent of children ages 10 to 14 who suffered a serious bike injury were diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, compared to 44 percent of children ages 5 to 9 and 38 percent of children ages 4 and under. "Brain injuries are more common among older children because these kids are less likely to wear their helmets and take more chances." adds Dr. Koop. "SAFE KIDS urges parents and kids to wear a helmet on any wheel-related activity. It can reduce the risk of brain injury by as much as 88 percent."

Nearly 28 million children ride bicycles and the popularity of scooters, skateboards and inline skates has been skyrocketing. SAFE KIDS examined data from the National Pediatric Trauma Registry (from 1994 to 2001) to look closely at the number of children who have suffered a traumatic brain injury. In addition, SAFE KIDS commissioned a national survey with tweens to look at their attitudes and behaviors toward helmet use during all wheel-related activity. The findings are documented in a report titled: A National Study of Traumatic Brain Injury and Wheel-Related Sports.

## Why Don't Tweens Wear Helmets?

Nearly half of kids (47 percent) reported that they "only ride near home" as a reason for not always wearing a helmet.

Reasons children cited for not wearing a helmet included: "Helmets are uncomfortable" (43 percent); "I don't think I need to wear a helmet for all of these activities" (32 percent); "I am older now and in more control when I ride" (29 percent); "I don't feel cool wearing a helmet" (28 percent); and "My parents don't make me" (27 percent).

## What Would it Take to Get Kids to Wear Helmets?

The majority of tweens (54 percent) said that knowing someone who was badly hurt while not wearing a helmet would convince them to wear one on every ride.

Many tweens admitted they would wear a helmet if it were a parental rule (53 percent) or if it were a law in their state (49 percent). "I'm faced with the awful task of telling parents that their child suffered brain damage that could have been so easily prevented with a helmet," says Dr. Martin Eichelberger, director of trauma and burn services, Children's National Medical Center. "Most parents and kids don't understand just how fragile the brain is, and that a fall from as little as 2 feet and at surprisingly low speeds can be so serious. No parent or child should have to learn such a painful lesson."

This article can be viewed in its' entirety at [http://www.usa.safekids.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?folder\\_id=300&content\\_item\\_id=6050](http://www.usa.safekids.org/tier3_cd.cfm?folder_id=300&content_item_id=6050). It is a good reminder as to why so many groups throughout the state of Oregon work so hard to educate on helmet use and provide helmets to families in need. With ACTS Oregon managing the Bicycle Safety Mini-Grants we hope to be able to support community programs that work to make wheeled sports safer.

# Law Enforcement Technician Class

February 19th to 21st  
Beaverton

This entertaining and fast paced class was comprised entirely of law enforcement officers representing different police agencies from around the state. In order to appropriately cater the curriculum to this audience, in-depth information was discussed regarding Oregon Law vs. Best Practice, Crash Dynamics, and Crash Reconstruction.

Congratulations to Oregon's newest Law Enforcement Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians: Ryan Garbutt, Justin Haugen, Gregg Magnus, Brian McNeel and Chris Warren—**Beaverton Police Department**, Shawn Morgan—**Florence Police Department**, Gordon Gill and Tim Ware—**Lane County Sheriff's Office**, Nathan Scott—**Portland Police Bureau**, Aaron Clark—**Rockaway Beach Police**, Doug Carpenter—**Scappoose Police Department**, Nick Nunn—



**Tigard Police Department**, Nick Troxe—**Tillamook City Police Department**, Scott Haley—**Washington County Sheriff**.

Thank you to the excellent instructor team. These instructors are always a pleasure to work with: Bill Balzer—**Portland**

**Police Bureau**, Jeff Oliver—**Lake Oswego Police Department** and Brandon Meyer—**SAFE KIDS Rogue Valley**, and Sandy Holt—**ACTS Oregon**.

Congratulations to Grant Johnstone—**Tualatin Police Department** who completed his instructor candidacy during this class. We are pleased to have him as the newest addition to Oregon's growing Instructor Team.

A special thanks to Carla Levinski—**ODOT—Transportation Safety Division** for all her support and encouragement in certifying Oregon's law enforcement.

# Government Announces New Child Seat Ratings System



The Associated Press,  
Washington  
January 30, Ken Thomas

Parents who struggle to install their child safety seats or fasten their toddlers in the back-seat chairs are receiving some new guidance from the government.

The Transportation Department said Wednesday it was revamping a consumer ratings system for child safety seats to help parents and caregivers make the best choice for their kids.



The new approach will use a five-star rating system,

based on the seats' ability to secure a child and the ease with which the seats are installed. It will also consider the seats' labeling and instruction manuals.

"We believe that the new star system will help simplify one of parents' most important decisions: choosing the best safety seat that will protect their children," Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said during a news conference at an Arlington, Va., fire station.

Many parents can attest to the frequent frustration found in securing a car seat or making sure their child is strapped in. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said seven in ten child safety seats are either the wrong size or misused, reducing their ability to protect kids in a crash.

"If one of these things is difficult to use, even if someone buys one, they may not be willing to switch them among cars...because they remember what a pain they were to install," said Adrian Lund, president of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. "If we get seats that are easier to install, then it's more likely that people will use them."

When used properly, the seats are very effective. NHTSA estimates that child restraint systems reduce fatal injuries by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars and by nearly 60 percent for infants and toddlers in sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and vans.

Transportation officials stressed that the new ratings system does not assess how effective a seat is in protecting a child in a crash. All child seats must comply with federal safety standards to protect children in a car crash.

The government recommends car seats for children up to 40 pounds and booster seats for children over 40 pounds until they are 8 years old

or 4 feet 9 inches tall. All children should ride in the back seat until age 13.

The new system, which assigns an overall rating of up to five stars, replaces an older ratings program which used letter grades. The five-star rating system is also used in NHTSA's consumer crash test program for new cars and trucks.

"This system is also a great resource for CPS Technicians," according to Ruth Harshfield, executive director of ACTS Oregon. "When a child under 5 pounds needs an infant seat, a 3 year old child is too tall for their convertible seats or a family wants a safety seat with a harness for their child over 40 pounds, the child seat rating lists harness type, weight and height limit for each seat."

Child seat ratings can be found on NHTSA's Web site:  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> \t "\_blank"  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/1/29/08>.

# Medical Professional Technician Class

January 16th to 19th  
Milwaukie

The RN certification course was held at American Medical Response. This class was unique in that it was intended for Medical Professionals with an emphasis on special needs. Thank you American Medical Response for hosting this class and providing a wonderful area to work in.



Congratulations to all the new Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians: Michel Bryant—**Albany General Hospital**, Daniel Carlton, Mandy Gold and Heather Teyema—**American Medical Response**, Nancy Durben—**Child Development and Rehabilitation Center**, Jennifer Flores—**Doernbecher Children's Hospital**, Katie Brown, Tina Dunn, Katie Godt, Sue May and Janie Vizon—**Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital**, Betty Larson—**Mid Valley Children's Clinic**, Maria Sanchez—**Multnomah County Health Department**, Lara Levine and Margaret Wolf—

**Oregon Health Science University**, Leticia Navarro—**Prosser Memorial Hospital**, and Nanette Wilson—**Sandy Fire**.

Thank you, to the instructor team who did a wonderful job: Lucie Drum—**American Medical Response**, Tammy Franks—**Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital**, Cindy Storlie and Jeff Oliver—**Lake Oswego Police Department**, and Sandy Holt—**ACTS Oregon**.

Congratulations to Mary Kay Johnson—**Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital** who completed her Instructor Candidacy at this class. Welcome aboard to Oregon's Instructor Team!

In addition a special thanks to:

CPS Technician Dea Boldt at **American Medical Response** for all her behind the scenes help, the class wouldn't have gone as smooth without her!

CPS Technicians Andrea Soltman and Gary Demoss—**Lake Oswego Police Department** for your help with hands on activities as technician assistants.

Lieutenant Doug Treat—**Lake Oswego Police Department**

Thanks in part to his efforts the department has four child passenger safety certified technicians and 2 instructors. Members of this staff are always eager and available to help. ACTS Oregon thanks him for his continuing support of this partnership.



# Check Up Clinics and Fitting Stations

Please check [www.childsafetyseat.org](http://www.childsafetyseat.org) under Child Passenger Safety/Calendar for current list, specific dates, locations and times.

Date	City	Location	Address	Time
03/13/2008	La Grande	Fire Department	1806 Cove Avenue	9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
03/13/2008	Beaverton	Kuni Cadillac	3725 SW Cedar Hills Boulevard	5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
03/15/2008	Dallas	Fire Department	915 Shelton	11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
03/15/2008	Beaverton	Police Department	755 SW Griffith Drive	8:45 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
03/15/2008	Milwaukie	Fire Department	2930 SE Oak Grove Boulevard	10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
03/19/2008	McMinnville	Fire Department	175 E 1st Street	12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.
03/19/2008	Corvallis	Fire Department	400 NW Harrison Street	8:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
03/20/2008	La Grande	Fire Department	1806 Cove Avenue	9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
03/20/2008	Bend	Fire Department	1212 SW Simpson Avenue	10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
03/22/2008	Salem	Burlington Coat Factory	833 Lancaster Drive NE Lancaster Mall	10:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
03/22/2008	Portland	Legacy Emanuel Hospital	2801 N Gantenbein Avenue Parking Structure #3	10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
03/27/2008	La Grande	Fire Department	1806 Cove Avenue	9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
04/02/2008	McMinnville	Fire Department	175 E 1st Street	12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.

## Training Opportunity

### Uniform Traffic Control Devices Workshop March 25-27

The workshop is located at the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis. The schedule includes registration, with continental breakfast, from 8:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. The class adjourns by 5:00 P.M. An agenda listing subsequent start and end times will be distributed the first day. Register online: <http://kiewit.oregonstate.edu>.

## 2008 Oregon Transportation Safety Conference

### Enriching Communities thru Tradition and Technology

Join ODOT—Transportation Safety Division and ACTS Oregon, October 20 to 22 at Seven Feathers Conference Center in Canyonville, OR. In recognition of the location our theme is “Enriching Communities thru Tradition and Technology.” As planning begins, we will be requesting proposals for workshops, designing tours, identifying keynote presenters, contacting vendors, and planning the evening receptions.

Registration: 3 days \$115.00. Lodging at the conference center is \$74.00 plus 8% tax for single and double occupancy until 10/5/2008. Call 800-548-8461 and use the guestroom block code “Oregon Transportation.”

# SAVE THESE DATES!



## October 20 to 22 at Seven Feathers Conference Center in Canyonville, OR.