



# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE TO HOST SEPTEMBER 24 FAMILY SAFETY FAIR IN DOWNERS GROVE**

*Family fun and safety exhibits include free child safety seat inspection and installation, kids' ID cards, South Shore Drill Team and touch-a-truck display*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 will host the 9th Annual Family Safety Fair on Saturday, September 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tollway's headquarters in Downers Grove. The free event brings fun and safety together, with family friendly activities and the opportunity for free kids' identification cards and child safety seat inspections and installations with a goal of keeping children safe and parents worry-free, every trip, every time.

The Family Safety Fair, which takes place at 2700 Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove, coincides with Child Passenger Safety Week (September 18-24) and National Seat Check Saturday, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration campaign to remind everyone of the lifesaving effect child safety seats have in protecting children from birth through age 12.

The event wraps up the 2016 Kids Identification and Safety Seat (K.I.S.S.) program offered by the Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15. So far this year, District 15 has inspected more than 300 child safety seats and issued more than 600 child IDs to help keep kids safe.

"Safety is the number one priority at the Illinois Tollway, so our Family Safety Fair combines family friendly activities with assistance and education to help keep everyone safe on the road," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "Hosting the Family Safety Fair on Seat Check Saturday with Illinois State Police District 15 is a reminder of the responsibilities we all have to help families stay safe when traveling."

Highlights of the Family Safety Fair include:

- Child safety seat inspections and installations and free identification cards for children ages 3 and older
- Illinois State Police District 15 motorcycle and K-9 unit demonstrations, as well as exhibits showing the importance of wearing seat belts including the Roll 15 rollover simulator, the Convincer crash simulator and Drive for Life, a hands-on, behind-the-wheel experience that demonstrates the dangers of drinking and driving
- Touch-a-truck display offering exploration of roadway and emergency vehicles, including a Tollway H.E.L.P. truck, a 26-ton snowplow, Illinois State Police squad cars, motorcycles and a SWAT tactical response truck, LIFESTAR 1 CHICAGO helicopter, Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District fire truck and ambulance and a Pace express bus
- DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management public education vehicle featuring interactive demonstrations on emergency preparedness
- Entertainment including a performance by The South Shore Drill Team, a visit by Dude the Parrot, KeyLime Cove Indoor Waterpark's mascot, an inflatable bounce house and face painters for kids.

“Nationally, car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old, but the statistics have proven that by simply using car seats, boosters and seat belts properly, many injuries and deaths could have been prevented,” said District 15 Commander Robert Meeder. “Here in Illinois, we’ve found that approximately 90 percent of the child safety seats inspected by the State Police have been installed incorrectly, so the Family Safety Fair is our way to help make sure Illinois Tollway drivers don’t become another statistic.”

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand to inspect and install child safety seats and help drivers stay up-to-date with the latest safety seat information and educational materials. Properly installed safety seats eliminate a potential distraction for drivers and significantly reduce the risk of injury or greater tragedy for children in the event of an accident.

Safety seat inspections also offer a convenient way for drivers to make sure they comply with Illinois law, which requires that whenever a person is transporting a child under age 8, the person is responsible for properly securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system. To participate, parents, grandparents and caregivers should bring child safety seats, children and the vehicle in which the child safety seats will be installed.

Specially trained professionals also will be available to take kids’ photographs and fingerprints and gather vital information to include on three personal identification cards – one for home and two for a wallet or purse. Neither Illinois State Police nor the Illinois Tollway keeps this information in a database. Once the ID card is issued to the guardian, the information is deleted.

U.S. Department of Justice reports have estimated that some 340,500 children a year become temporarily separated from a parent or caregiver for at least an hour. If a child goes missing, an up-to-date, good quality photo along with descriptive information is one of the most important tools law enforcement needs to help locate the child, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited children. It’s estimated that 34 percent of American parents wouldn’t be able to accurately describe their child to law enforcement, including details of exact height and weight, as well as their children’s eye color.

### **Missing Child Basics**

Information provided on kids ID cards can help law enforcement search and recover a missing child. That includes a description of the child’s hair and eye color, height, weight, race, unique identifiers such as glasses or beauty marks, as well as date of birth, current photo and fingerprints.

The FBI suggests that parents keep their children’s fingerprints, not only because fingerprints are unique but also because they don’t change over time like a child’s appearance. The FBI also recommends that parents update the photos of their children on ID cards at least once a year to ensure they are current.

With increased public awareness, training, laws and better technology, the recovery rate of missing children has jumped from 62 percent in 1990 to more than 97 percent today, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

### **Child Safety Seat Basics**

Illinois law requires that whenever a person is transporting a child under age 8, the person is responsible for properly securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system. The safest place for infants, toddlers and young children to ride is in the back seat with the appropriate child safety seat for their age and weight.

Infants should ride rear-facing until 2 years of age, longer if possible, to protect their developing head muscles and bones. Toddlers and young children should ride in a child safety seat with an internal harness until they reach the maximum harness limit of the child restraint. A booster seat is the most effective way to position a safety belt properly on a young child's growing body.

Safety belts are designed for adults who are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall. Until age 8, most children have not developed strong hipbones and their legs and bodies are too short for the adult safety belt to fit correctly without use of a booster seat.

**About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 292 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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**k.i.s.s.**

<b>Illinois State Police-District 15/Illinois Tollway</b>	
<b>PRINCESS BELLA</b>	
Eye: BRO	Hair: BLN
Height:	Weight: Sex:
	LBS F
DOB:	Race:
01182010	W
Special Marks:	
	Date: 06/17/2014
Other Health Concerns or Considerations:	
IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT	
FINGERPRINT TECHNOLOGY BY CROSS MATCH TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	