



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2018

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE TO HOST
SEPTEMBER 29 FAMILY SAFETY FAIR IN DOWNERS GROVE**

*National Seat Check Saturday event features fun and safety exhibits including
free kids' ID cards, child safety seat inspection and installation*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 will host the 11th annual Family Safety Fair on Saturday, September 29, in Downers Grove.

The fair coincides with Child Passenger Safety Week (September 23-29) and National Seat Check Saturday, part of a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration effort to educate parents and caregivers to ensure their children are secured in the correct car seat for the child's age, height and weight.

"The Family Safety Fair is a great place for adults and children to have fun with a wide range of interactive exhibits," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. "The free event combines fun and safety with the opportunity to receive kids' identification cards and child safety seat inspections alongside family friendly activities and with a goal of helping to grow safe drivers to raise awareness of roadway and driving safety.

This event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tollway headquarters, 2700 Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove, concludes the Operation Kid 2018 program offered by the Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15, which featured 11 Kids Identification and Safety Seat (K.I.S.S.) events at locations around Northern Illinois. During those K.I.S.S. events, District 15 issued more than 780 child IDs and inspected nearly 450 child safety seats to help keep kids safe.

Highlights of the Family Safety Fair include:

- Child safety seat inspections and installations and free identification cards for children ages 3 and older.
- Roadway and work zone safety education information and activities to raise awareness about the state's work zone safety and Move Over laws.
- 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, a SWAT tactical response truck, Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District fire truck and ambulance, Westmont First Student school bus and a Pace bus.
- Entertainment including a performance by the Jesse White Tumblers, interactive exhibits from the DuPage Children's Museum, an inflatable bounce house, face painters for kids and an appearance by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Blue Bear.

"Properly installed child safety seats save lives and significantly reduce injuries in the event of car crashes, which are a leading cause of death among children, and, yet, we have found that about 90 percent of seats inspected by Illinois State Police are improperly installed," said District 15 Commander

Robert Meeder. “The Family Safety Fair gives us the opportunity to help keep children safe by inspecting safety seats to ensure they are correctly installed and educating parents about roadway safety.”

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.

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.

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 3 and up, but research has found child safety seats reduce fatal injury by up to 71 percent for infants and up to 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the 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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