



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 29, 2019**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE OPERATION KID OFFERS FAMILY FUN AND SAFETY EVENT AUGUST 3 IN ITASCA**

*Free safety seat checks and kids ID cards at K.I.S.S. event at the Itasca Fire Protection District*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15, working to keep children safe every trip, every time through Operation Kid 2019, are hosting a free Kids' Identification and Safety Seat (K.I.S.S.) event on Saturday, August 3, at the Itasca Fire Protection District.

"K.I.S.S. events make staying safe quick and convenient for parents, grandparents and caregivers and fun for kids," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "Families can get their child safety seats checked, pick up free ID cards for their kids and enjoy other fun activities."

The next Operation Kid K.I.S.S. event is scheduled Saturday, August 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Itasca Fire Protection District, 520 W. Irving Park Road. Kids' ID card processing will take place inside the fire station, accessible from the entrance behind the building, and safety seat inspections will take place in the rear parking lot off Eicklemann Drive.

K.I.S.S. event highlights include:

- Free identification cards for children ages 3 and older.
- Child safety seat inspections and installations.
- Touch-a-truck display featuring hands-on exploration of a Tollway H.E.L.P. truck, snowplow and Itasca Fire District truck.
- Fire station tours and fire safety information.

### **Operation Kid 2019 – It's as easy as 1-2-3!**

#### **1 – Find an event near you.**

The Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 are hosting free K.I.S.S. events at convenient locations throughout Northern Illinois. A complete list is available on the Tollway's website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

#### **2 – Make sure your child's safety seat is properly installed.**

Certified child passenger safety technicians inspect child safety seats and help parents and caregivers with proper installation. Some of the more common problems District 15 inspectors pinpoint include child facing the wrong direction, too much slack in harness straps, not properly securing the car seat, improper child restraint for the child's weight and the need for booster seats for older children.

#### **3 – Get a photo ID card for your child.**

Specially trained professionals take photographs and fingerprints of children 3 and older and gather vital information to include on an ID card that parents and caregivers can reference in an emergency.

If a child gets lost, an up-to-date, good-quality photo along with fingerprints and descriptive information can help law enforcement locate the child.

“Operation Kid offers a convenient way for drivers to make sure they’re complying with Illinois law,” said District 15 Acting Commander Dominic Chiappini. “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.”

Illinois law requires that all children under age 8 must be properly secured in an appropriate child restraint system when riding in a vehicle with family or other caregivers. In addition, as of January 1, 2019, children under age 2 years are required by Illinois law to ride rear-facing, unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall, to protect their developing muscles and bones.

Properly installed child safety seats save lives and significantly reduce injuries in the event of a crash. Yet, Illinois State Police find that more than 90 percent of child safety seats they inspect are improperly installed.

For more information about Operation Kid 2019 and to see additional activities at each event, visit the [Tollway’s website](#).

#### **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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