

CTRAFFIC SAFETY Connection

Connecting Oregon's Community Traffic & Child Passenger Safety Advocates

October/November

Volume 10, Number 1

Annual Meeting 2011

On Tuesday, October 18th, ACTS Oregon Board members, associates, and staff attended our Annual Meeting. Mingling guests enjoyed coffee and refreshments with a general session highlighting activities from the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

During the general session 2011-2012 Board Members were announced. Congratulations to those who were re-elected: Tammy Franks – **Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel**, and Jan Robertson – **AAA Oregon/Idaho**. A warm welcome goes to Therese Madrigal – **Deschutes County Health Department**, and a "Welcome back!" goes to Stephen Manning who returns to the Board.

Outgoing Board Member Ralph Browning was recognized for his time serving on the Board. Thank you for all your good work Ralph!



The 2010-2011 ACTS Oregon Annual Report summarizes the year's accomplishments. Read the report online at: http://www.actsoregon.org/pdf/EmailNews/Annual_Report_2011_EmailVersion.pdf.

Thank you to all who have joined as members of ACTS Oregon for 2011-2012. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining to support our organization's efforts. Visit <http://www.actsoregon.org/membership.html>.

On a Night of Fun & Frights, Pedestrian Safety Should Be the Primary Focus

Article from SafeKids.org

On a night when many children spend hours in close proximity to cars as they navigate through neighborhoods gathering candy, pedestrian safety should be a top priority for both drivers and parents. On average, twice as many fatalities occur among children while walking on Halloween compared to other days of the year.

Halloween falls on a Monday this year, and many kids will be out late trick-or-treating while it is dark - making it harder for drivers to see them.

Because of this lack of visibility, it is important for drivers to take extra precautions to watch out for trick-or-treaters, especially around crosswalks.



"The simple act of slowing down on neighborhood roads will not only make Halloween more enjoyable for everyone, but also it could save lives," said Moira Donahue, Director of the *Walk This Way* program, Safe Kids' pedestrian safety program.

"Pedestrian safety is not just the responsibility of the driver. Parents can do their part to help kids stay out of the emergency room on Halloween by emphasizing safe pedestrian behaviors before they go out trick-or-treating," said Donahue. "Children younger than age 12 should not be alone crossing streets at night without an adult. If older kids are mature enough to go trick-or-treating without adult supervision, parents should make sure they go in a group

and stick to a predetermined route with good lighting."

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Almost-Deadly Sippy Cup Incident Warns Against Projectiles In Car

By Christie Haskell, Images by Christina Hish; Original article at: TheStir.CafeMom.com

I know people think some things are extreme when it comes to car seat safety, often a matter of the "It won't happen to me" mindset. When mentioning clearing the car of potential projectiles, often the reaction is, "Oh, please! Whatever," ignoring the fact that even slamming on your brakes without impact is enough to make things go flying.

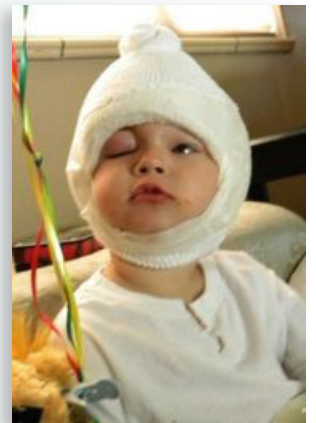
For one mom, Christina Hish of Denver, the reality of dangers from a projectile came true, in a very scary and serious way. The end result is over 400 stitches and many surgeries for her son, all from a soft-spouted sippy cup.

On October 15th, last year, Hish and her 2-1/2-year-old, JD, were going out in their family car. Only a block away from her house, as she

turned left, someone who drove straight in a left-turn lane hit her going around 45 miles per hour.

Her airbags deployed, the car was smoking, and she heard her son screaming behind her. She got out and went to him, and saw blood everywhere. He had been essentially scalped by the soft spout sippy cup he had with him.

She screamed for help, and an amazing woman removed her shirt, helping her apply pressure to her son's head and they sang while waiting for emergency response.



A plastic surgeon was called in to handle JD's injuries - his skull was fractured in three places.

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Layout by Amber Husted

Gear Up for Winter Driving

By Lynne Mutrie, ACTS Oregon Board Member

Summer is finished, kids are back at school and it's time to re-check the safety of our chosen vehicles, our route and our understanding of our chosen travel modes to ensure safe travel for all. Are all vehicle lights working? Are our brakes at their best? Are the tires properly inflated with lots of tread?



With the changes in weather, daylight length, and amount of people using the roads, our driving styles should change as well.

The following tips work for all road users; vehicle drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians:

Steer clear of wet leaves

Once those leaves start falling and get wet from rain they can become a serious travel hazard. Wet leaves are slippery and reduce traction. They can also cover pavement markings or potholes. Always keep your windshield clean of leaves and watch for wet leaves on the roads, especially as you are making turns.

Make adjustments for the light

Shorter days mean shorter light, making it more

difficult to see pedestrians, cyclists, and children playing in the late afternoon. Be on the lookout. If night vision is a problem, adjust your driving times or find alternate, well-lit routes whenever possible. Make sure all lights are working properly.

Watch for frost

Dipping nighttime temperatures bring frost to windshields and roads. Keep a windshield scraper and small broom in your car. Clean all

windows and wait for defogging to occur before pulling out of your parking space. Decelerate or gently brake when slowing down: open surfaces are more prone to collect frost on the road surface. Keep alert for shaded areas that could create black ice during early morning and evening hours.

Plan ahead for Safe Routes

If you travel to or through a school zone, know that 20 miles per hour limits are in place to help children and youth be safe. The slower you travel the easier it is to stop quickly and if a collision occurs, severity of injury is lessened.

And, as always, buckle up and wear safety gear before heading out to enjoy all that fall has to offer. Be safe!

Change to Oregon Booster Seat Law - January 2012



A change to the Oregon Child Seat Law goes into effect January 2012. The current law requires children to move from a child seat to a booster after forty pounds. House Bill 3590 signed by Governor John Kitzhaber on June 9, 2011 will allow continued use of child seats up

to the highest weight limit allowed by the seat manufacturer, as an alternative to boosters, for children over forty pounds but under age eight or less than 4'9" tall.

Current law states that after a child reaches forty pounds in weight, the child **must** be restrained in a booster to age eight or 4'9" tall. However, a child safety seat with a five-point harness will restrain a child more securely than a booster seat. The upper weight limits of harness-type seats have been steadily increasing (*beyond a former 40 pound maximum*) to accommodate much higher weights as children are getting larger, younger (*some up to 60 or 80 pounds*). The revised law

allows drivers the choice of continuing the use of the five-point harness seat beyond 40 pounds and up to the maximum weight rating allowed by the manufacturer - as an alternative to a booster. This also avoids the need to discard a perfectly good seat and purchase a booster unnecessarily.

A secondary reason for this change was to prevent officers from citing citizens for using boosters where there is a harness system available that is safer. Although this hasn't been reported to be a widespread issue, as more officers become trained as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and the public becomes better educated, the practicality of enforcement of safety belt laws and how our laws relate to national "best practice" has come under increasing scrutiny. Many states have been routinely upgrading their laws to match best practice.



Find out more about Oregon's Occupant Protection Laws on ODOT - Transportation Safety Division's Occupant Protection page at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/safetybelts.shtml>.

National CPS Technician Certification Class in Coos Bay

Coos Bay Fire and Rescue hosted ACTS Oregon's last class of our 2011 fiscal year. The accommodations were great and the staff could not be more helpful. Thank you Fire Chief Stan Gibson – **Coos Bay Fire and Rescue**, for sharing your wonderful space with us! Congratulations to our newest CPS Technicians! Your hard work and determination paid off!

Welcome to the team of Oregon Techs: Elizabeth Craig – **Community Volunteer**, Kristina Gandy and Becky Vincent – **Bay**

Area Hospital, Sharon Mason – Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, James Harrell – Curry County Sheriff's Office, Jessica Lowry – Early Head Start Coos Bay, Maria Horta – Family Building Blocks Salem, Bob Buckridge – Lane County Fire District #1, Josh Mullins – OSP Coos Bay, and Katie Selvog – Sky Lakes Medical Center.

Thank you, to a fun loving instructor team! Scott Downing – **Jackson County Fire District #3**, Bill Craig – **Skagit County Medic One**, Doris Girt, Sandy Holt, and Lead Instructor Jeff Oliver – **ACTS Oregon.**



Mini-Grant Activity Bike Safety Class Positively Impacts Klamath Falls



Bicycle Safety grantee **Shasta Elementary** in Klamath Falls prepares for fall bike riding by hosting a bike skills refresher class for 5th and 6th grade students. ACTS Oregon's Charity Sturgeon attended the class and went for a ride with the students. Shasta Elementary 6th grade teacher Tricia Polsinelli spoke about how the grant-provided bicycle safety classes have encouraged more riding, enthusiastically

stating, "Students and staff are tracking their cardiovascular improvements, choosing healthier foods, and many staff members are gathering on weekends to ride.

Indeed, the grant has positively affected our school." What a great outcome from this grant program. Keep up the good work Shasta!

Infants to Seniors: Something for Everyone in Hermiston



Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston hosted their annual *Family Health and*

Safety Day at **Hermiston High School** on September 24th. The event was attended by nearly 2000 people and offered displays and information on child passenger safety, bike safety, healthy snack choices, a rock climbing wall, vision and hearing screening, and even the local roller derby team.



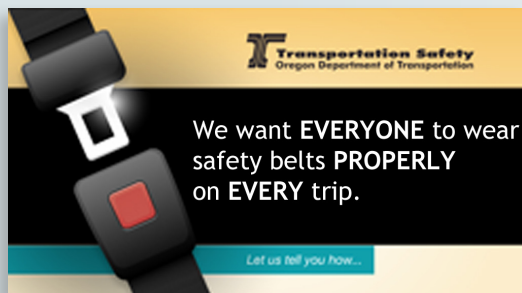
It was a beautiful day in Hermiston and a great event for the families. The best part was that it was all offered to the public at no charge! Sandy Holt and Charity Sturgeon – ACTS Oregon, attended the event to support safety efforts with Good Shepherd Hospital and **Safe Kids Blue Mountain.**

New Safety Belt "Infomercial"

By *Carla Levinski, TSD OP Program Manager*

Transportation Safety Division's Occupant Protection Program recently produced a three-minute video designed to promote restraint use and help people understand the basics of Oregon's belt laws.

The video emphasizes being "safe and comfortable" and is now available electronically in several formats, each designed for different purposes. Anyone can use them as they please.



The CD version is PC-only, appropriate for play from a laptop. This version would be a good overview to incorporate into classrooms or conferences such as those for safety belt alternative sentencing, driver education, general traffic safety, AARP 55 Alive, high school and junior highs, and child passenger safety. Other suggested venues are law enforcement roll-calls, staff meetings, and employee safety meetings.

The tradeshow version is looping, appropriate for event displays, traffic safety fairs, waiting rooms, and similar environments.

The Web version has an auto-forward-by-email feature at the end for sharing with others. That version is posted on the Transporta-

tion Safety Division webpage at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/safetybelts.shtml>.

A video version has been posted on ODOT's YouTube site at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/OregonDOT> and can be synched to an iPhone or iPad by importing to iTunes.

The CD version is available for download at: <ftp://ftp.odot.state.or.us/outgoing/safetybelt-movie laptop/> and the Tradeshow version is available for download at: <ftp://ftp.odot.state.or.us/outgoing/safetybeltmovie looping/>

Please feel free to use this infomercial or pass along to help us educate others regarding Oregon safety belt and child passenger safety laws.

If you have questions or problems with any of these links please call Carla Levinski at (503) 986-4199.

Date	City	Location	Address	Time
10/26/11	Bend	Bend Fire	1212 SW Simpson	10am – 1pm
10/26/11	Forest Grove	Forest Grove Fire	1919 Ash St	3pm – 5pm
10/27/11	Eugene	Eugene Fire	1725 W 2nd Ave	5pm – 7pm
10/27/11	Woodburn	Woodburn Fire	1776 Newberg Hwy	1pm – 4pm
10/28/11	Hermiston	Wal-Mart	1350 N 1st St	3pm – 6pm
10/29/11	Hillsboro	Kohl's Dept Store	7360 NW Butler St	10am – 1pm
11/2/11	Coos Bay	Coos Bay Fire	450 Elrod Ave	11am – 1pm
11/3/11	Redmond	Redmond Fire	341 Dogwood Ave	11am – 2pm
11/3/11	Newberg	Springbrook Fire	3100 Middlebrook Dr	9am – 11am
11/4/11	Roseburg	Douglas Co Fire	1290 NE Cedar	9am – 11am
11/5/11	Albany	Albany Fire	120 SE 34th Ave	8am – 10am
11/5/11	Lake Oswego	Lake Oswego Fire	300 B St	10am – 2pm
11/5/11	Canby	Canby Fire	221 S Pine St	10am – 1pm
11/8/11	Corvallis	Corvallis Fire	400 NW Harrison St	8am – 11:30am
11/10/11	Ontario	Ontario Fire	444 SW 4th St	4pm – 6pm
11/10/11	St. Helens	St. Helens Fire	105 S 12th St	4pm – 6pm
11/12/11	Beaverton	Beaverton City Hall	4755 SW Griffith Dr	9am – 12:30pm
11/12/11	Hillsboro	Tuality Hospital	334 SE 8th Ave	9am – 11am
11/12/11	Silverton	Silverton Fire	819 Railway St	12pm – 4pm
11/16/11	Prineville	Crook County Fire	500 NE Belknap	3pm – 6pm
11/17/11	Madras	Jefferson Co. Fire	765 SE Adams Dr	11am – 1pm
11/17/11	Eugene	Eugene Fire	1725 W 2nd Ave	5pm – 7pm
11/19/11	Salem	Keizer Fire	661 Chemawa Rd NE	11am – 3pm

Safe Routes to Schools Mini-Grants Awarded



Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Action Plan Mini-Grants have been awarded to 8 schools in Oregon. These grants provide up to \$3000 to support schools and community organizations in creating the Oregon SRTS Action Plan - the first step for the implementation of a Safe Routes to School program.

Mini-Grants were awarded to:

Black Butte School, Cove Charter School, Irrigon Schools, Metolius Elementary, Miller Elementary, Shady Cove Elementary & Middle School, Stayton Middle School, and Sweetbrier Elementary.

Almost-Deadly Sippy Cup Incident

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He required more than 200 internal and 200 external stitches, and the main muscle in his forehead was severed and not able to be repaired, meaning he will never have movement of his forehead muscles.

Being autistic and non-verbal, JD's recovery was especially difficult. But with a great support system of loving family, he is now doing well. He has been through a lot, will have lasting scars, and may face future surgeries.



JD's mom is now, understandably, a major car seat safety advocate, with focus on dangers of projectiles. Many people consider it excessive or extreme but the fact is even in situations where a person merely slams on the brakes, items go flying. Everything that is loose is potentially a danger to the occupants of a vehicle (especially unrestrained passengers and pets!).

The method for determining the force at which an item flies isn't tough. Just figure that the weight of an object, times the speed you're traveling equals the force at which that item would hit something if your car comes to a sudden, complete stop (*like hitting something head*

on). A 5 pound purse x 35 miles per hour = 175 pounds of force. That's actually pretty significant if it's hitting you or your child.

It may seem silly to buckle in your purse or put your water bottle in the center console that closes, but it's worth it. Only allow soft items like blankets or stuffed animals in the car with your child, and if you need a drink, check out something like an entirely soft water bladder that can be secured to something, and would break and spill before it would go flying. I think any mom would really hate to have her purse damage her child, when she figured just months before, "Whatever. It's not worth the effort."

Do you take projectiles seriously? Do you secure them?

Pedestrian Safety

Continued from Page 1



Safety tips for parents:

- Cross the street safely at corners. Use traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk - don't run - across the street.
- Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Slow down and stay alert. Watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and never dart out into the street or

cross in between parked cars.

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and choose light colors. Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible. Provide glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers.

Safety tips for drivers:



- Slow down in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are during the typical rush-hour period of 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Be especially alert. Take extra time

to look for kids at intersections, on medians and curbs. Children may move in unpredictable ways.

- Slowly and carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car, such as eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

For more tips on how to help kids become safer pedestrians throughout the year, visit websites for [WalkingInfo.org](http://www.walkinginfo.org/): <http://www.walkinginfo.org/>, [ODOT-TSD Safe Routes to School](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/saferoutes.shtml): <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/saferoutes.shtml>, and [Safe Kids](http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/halloween-safety/): <http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/halloween-safety/>.