



# Prosper Fire Department Reminds Parents of "CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK" September 19-25, 2010



## Child Passenger Safety Week

September 19-25, 2010



REAR-FACING



FORWARD-FACING



BOOSTER



SEAT BELT

Using the most appropriate child safety seat is the most effective way to protect a child. Recognizing this need, two firefighter paramedics with the Prosper Fire Department have attended a four day, 32 hour course and are nationally certified as child passenger safety technicians. The Prosper Fire Department emphasis is on educating the community and teaching parents and/or caregivers how to properly restrain children in motor vehicles according to child passenger safety best practice guidelines.

While installing and using child safety seats may appear to be easy enough, the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has estimated that close to 3 out of 4 parents do not properly use child restraints ... and if you are one of them, that child safety seat may not protect your child the way it should.

**Infants - from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds** For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

**Toddlers - Age 1 & 20 lbs to Age 4 & 40 lbs** When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in **forward-facing** child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).

**Children - from about age 4 to at least age 8** Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in **booster seats**, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).

**Twens - age 8 and older** When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

**The Prosper Fire Department provides child car seat safety inspections free of charge by appointment only. To schedule your free inspection contact Captain Stuart Blasingame with the Prosper Fire Department at 972-347-2424.**