

## ***Make sure your child's car seat is installed properly***

The most common cause of death for children from the ages of 2 to 14 in the United States is automobile accidents. Unfortunately, the incorrect installation of children's car seats is one of the contributing factors to these deaths. In fact, a recent child safety seat check conducted across New York State revealed that approximately 90 percent of people were incorrectly using car seats.

If installed properly, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers. In addition, proper use has proved 69 percent effective in reducing the need for hospitalization. These are all excellent reasons for parents, or anyone who travels with a child, to make sure that their car seats are installed and used correctly.

Installing your car seat properly can save your child's life. For this reason, Pittsford is partnering with neighboring towns and the County to host a Car Seat Safety Check Point. The Town of Pittsford, in conjunction with The Pittsford Fire Department, Brighton Police Child Safety Seat Technicians, East Rochester Police Department, The Monroe County Office of Traffic Safety and the Safety Council of Central and Western New York will hold this child safety seat check at the Town of Pittsford's Highway Garage (60 Golf Avenue) on 6/26 from 9AM to noon. Technicians will make sure your seat (or seats) is installed properly. They will also teach you how to re-install the seat as well as the proper way to use it. No appointments are necessary – just stop by.

If you are not sure if you need a child restraint system, here is a quick refresher. In New York State, all children require an appropriate child safety restraint in vehicles until their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. If under age four, he or she must be properly secured in a federally-approved child safety seat that is attached to a vehicle by a safety belt or universal child restraint anchorage (LATCH) system. A child of age 4, 5, 6 or 7, (who weighs more than 40 pounds) must use a booster seat with lap and shoulder belt or a child safety seat. Children under the age of 12 should always ride in the back seat and should not be put in a regular seat belt until they are over 80 pounds or 4 foot 9 inches tall. Most importantly, children are more likely to be properly restrained, if the driver is properly restrained. So be a good role model and buckle up.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, stop by our Highway garage to make sure all children are riding safely in your vehicle. It will only take a few minutes of your time and the benefits may be immeasurable. To find out more details, please visit the Town of Pittsford's website at [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org).