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Local Child Safety Seat Inspections: August 19 Event and Beyond

Submitted by Grace Santos, Moraga Orinda Fire District



Photo provided

the road," says Powers.

What is a parent to do? Many caregivers are turning to the growing numbers of nationally certified car seat technicians to sort out their car seat conundrums. Getting your car seat's selection and installation checked by a trained professional is key.

Here in the Lamorinda area, the closest place for a "car seat check" is at the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). The Fire District has long promoted child passenger safety education with certified child passenger safety technicians on staff. A founding member of the Contra Costa Car Seat Safety Coalition, MOFD collaborates to host public check-up events as well as its own car seat fitting stations.

"Our next Child Safety Seat Inspection event is Wednesday, August 19, from 10 a.m. to noon at Station 41, at 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga. It is open to anyone and best of all, it's free. But if you can't make the event, we do take appointments," says MOFD Firefighter Jon Bensley, coordinator of the District's car seat program and car seat technician.

To arrange an appointment, send an email to carseatmofd@gmail.com. Bensley advises planning ahead because advance notice helps in coordinating a meeting time and place with technicians who work a variety of shifts.

Be advised to bring your car seat instructions with you and install a new car seat before coming to the inspection event. "The instructions are the key to knowing how a car seat works. If you can't find your instructions, we won't turn you away. We keep instructions in our car seat supplies," says Powers, who coordinates the team of Contra Costa Car Seat Safety Coalition technicians working the Moraga event.

Assisting with the August 19th Child Safety Seat Inspection event is newly certified car seat technician and MOFD Fire Prevention & Public Education Secretary, Grace Santos. If you have questions about the event, call Grace at 925-258-4525. Grace says that the fire station bays will be open for the event so there will be shade for most who attend.

If you have general questions about child passenger safety, call the Coalition phone line at 925-941-7989.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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