

NEWS RELEASE

5/22/2007

WHATCOM COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Bellingham Police
Department 676-6920

Blaine Police
Department 332-6769

Everson Police
Department 966-4212

Ferndale Police
Department
384-3390

Lummi Nation Police
Department 384-0945

Lynden Police
Department
354-2828

Sumas Police
Department
988-5711

Washington State Patrol
676-2007

Whatcom County
Sheriff's Office 676-6650

WWU Police
Department 650-3555

Car Seat Inspection

On June 1st Washington's new car seat law will take effect. The new law requires children to remain in an appropriate child restraint until the age of eight or until the child reaches a height of four feet nine inches. In addition, children under the age of 13 must ride in the back seat of the vehicle whenever practical. These new requirements are consistent with the recommendations of national child safety organizations such as Safe Kids USA.

As a resource to local families, The Whatcom County Traffic Safety Task Force and the Whatcom County Health Department will hold a car seat inspection clinic. According to car seat technician Jean Jenkins, "95% of the car seats inspected at the car seat inspection clinics in Whatcom County have needed some adjustment or education to provide maximum safety." The clinic will occur on June 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Washington State Patrol office, located at 3860 Airport Way, Bellingham. There is no cost for the inspection.

Car seat inspections take about 20 minutes and include:

- Inspection of infant, toddler and booster seats

- Recall and educational information

- Adjustment of fit – the child in the car seat and the car seat in the car

- Missing parts – locking clips, harness adjuster slides, retainers

For questions about the new child passenger safety law or the upcoming car seat inspection clinic, please contact Doug Dahl, Whatcom County Traffic Safety Coordinator at 398-2812 or ddahl@whatcomcounty.us.

The Whatcom County Traffic Safety Task Force is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies in Whatcom County committed to the prevention of traffic collisions on all streets, roads and highways within Whatcom County. Coordination is a function of the Traffic Safety Program, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. Doug Dahl, Coordinator 360-398-2812, Sgt. Steve Gatterman, Manager.