



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Update on Child Safety Car Restraints Program

Date:	April 7, 2010
To:	Community Development and Recreation
From:	Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	p:\2010\ClusterB\FIR\cd1015\doc

SUMMARY

The Toronto Fire Services participates in the Toronto Child Safety Seat Coalition with the Toronto Police Service, Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Transportation to install child safety car seats. The car safety seat clinics are held four times per year to assist with an efficient means to coordinate the installation of car seats.

Toronto Fire Services, as part of the Toronto Child Safety Seat Coalition, has participated in the installation of 584 car seats in 2009 compared to 330 in 2008.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on December 1, 2 and 3, 2010, City Council directed Fire Services to ensure there was a report back on the number of installations completed by Fire Services and the partners comprising the Toronto Child Safety Seat Coalition clinics.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-17229.pdf>

COMMENTS

Toronto Fire Services, as part of the Toronto Child Safety Seat Coalition, has participated in 4 clinics for a total of 584 installations in 2009. In 2008, the Coalition completed 330 car seat installations. The following chart outlines 2009:

2009 CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS			
Date of Clinic	Location	Times	No. of Seats Installed
March 17	Police Service - 9 Hanna Ave.	0730 to 1200 hrs.	64
April 27	Walmart - 2525 St. Clair Ave. W.	0830 to 1300 hrs.	148
June 24	Sherway Gardens - 25 The West Mall	0900 to 1200 hrs.	247
September 22	Walmart - 2525 St. Clair Ave. W.	0900 to 1200 hrs.	125
Total Installations			584

In general, turnout at these events appears to be higher during the warmer weather. Working with partners under the framework of the Toronto Child Safety Seat Coalition comprising of Police, Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Transportation and Coalition members provides the following benefits that would not be available if Fire Services was working in isolation:

- Appointments do not need to be scheduled and there are 6 to 10 car seat staging areas that can respond to the larger number of participants.
- There is no down time of staff waiting for appointment times of individuals who do not show up for the appointment.
- Coordination of having experienced staff available in installing difficult car seat installations will reduce time of installation per seat.

As part of the Toronto Child Safety Seat Coalition all staff who participate must have ongoing training and certification. Fire Services' staff cannot alter the motor vehicle, including installation of anchor bolts, in any way. The training from St. John Ambulance does not authorize the insertion of such anchor bolts. If this were required, the participant would be instructed to have the bolt installed by an authorized car dealership.

The Inspection of a child safety car seat includes the correct placement of the seat in the motor vehicle, the correct angle of the seat within the vehicle, the correct use and path of the restraint belts, the correct location of the vehicle seats and advice on how to ensure the child is not injured due to loose objects left within the car.

The Toronto Coalition advertises the events through the websites of its partners and through retail stores that host the events. The public is also made aware of these events by the members of the Coalition and appropriate sites found through internet research.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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