



City of Cottonwood Fire Department



For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Bill Matson – Fire Inspector, Program Coordinator 928-634-2741
Cottonwood Fire Department bmatson@cottonwoodaz.gov

Cottonwood Fire Department Car Seat Program

While not a new program, the Cottonwood Fire Department Car Seat Program has recently seen a dramatic increase in our ability to serve the citizens of our community. Our partnership with Verde Valley Medical Center has resulted in being granted \$8250.00 to provide car seats to local families needing them.

A recent article in the local newspaper covering our car seat program has caused a large upswing in car seat installation requests. Program coordinator Fire Inspector Bill Matson reports that Cottonwood Fire Department provided and installed 46 car seats in July and has already provided and installed 37 car seats so far in August.

According to Mattson, newborns and children under one-year of age should always be placed in rear-facing car seats. Children should remain in car seats until about 4 1/2 years of age and then should be placed in a booster seat until 8 years of age.

Mattson further reports that, "90 percent of car seats are installed incorrectly." Mattson has completed a rigorous, nationally recognized, five-day training program in car seat installation. He is certified to install car seats in all types of vehicles and can train citizens to properly install their car seats..

Under a new Arizona law that went into effect Aug 2, 2012, booster seats are required for children under 4'9" tall and under eight years of age..

For further information concerning this program please contact the Cottonwood Fire Department at 928-634-2741.