

Brighton Fire



WHAT TO EXPECT

Car Seat Checks

We require an appointment for installs because not all firefighters are certified car seat technicians and we don't always have a technician at every fire station.

If you are expecting a baby please consider scheduling an appointment at least *one month* prior to your due date.

To schedule your appointment email carseats@brightonfire.org

What you should know before your seat check:

- A thorough and proper car seat check can take up to 30 minutes or more, please plan accordingly.
- It is helpful for you and your experience if you have attempted to install the seat prior to your seat check.
- Please bring the owners manual for both your car seat and the vehicle.
 - Double check to make sure your vehicle doesn't have any open recalls that may impact car seat install. You can find this information at CheckToProtect.org. (Did you know that currently 50 million vehicles on the road have open recalls?)
- If you are installing an infant seat with a base please make sure you bring the base and the seat.
- If time allows please wipe any sticky messes, remove packaging material and tidy the vehicle for a faster install.
- A certified car seat technician will check the installation of your current seat and help you correct any problems.
- The technician will show you how to get your seat in properly for future installations.
- The technician will go over safety issues such as proper strap placement, harness clip placement, and strap tightness.
- The technician will be able to answer your questions on larger seats as your child grows and how those seats work.

Seat Belt Fit and Seat Adjustments for Expectant Mothers

- Place the lap belt all the way underneath the curve of your belly so the belt rests on your hips.
 - You may need to turn the lap belt over where it passes underneath your belly.
- Wear the shoulder belt to the side of your belly and diagonally across the center of your chest and collar bone.
 - The shoulder belt should rest on your shoulder over the center of your collar bone.
 - You may need to adjust the recline of your seat or the height of where the shoulder belt comes out of the wall.
- Sit back to provide space between your belly and the steering wheel, but make sure you can reach the pedals safely.
- Try not to recline the seat more than necessary. Sit in a comfortable upright position.
- Leave your airbags turned on.
 - Tilt your steering wheel so the airbag is directed towards your chest, not your belly or your face.
- Adjust your seat to keep at least 10 inches of space between the airbag and your chest.
- Pregnancy seat belt adjusters are **not** recommended.
 - For more information, visit www.hcpvs.org/seat-belt-adjusters.

Colorado's Child Restraint Law

- **Infants under 2 yrs of age and less than 40 lbs must ride in a rear-facing car seat and must be in the backseat ONLY.**
 - *Recommended* - Continue to rear-face until they outgrow the height/weight limits of the car seat.
- **Children 2-4 yrs AND at least 20 lbs must be restrained in a forward-facing car seat and must be in the backseat if available.**
 - *Recommended* - Continue to forward-face (5-point harness) until they outgrow the height or weight limits of the car seat.
- **Children 4-9 yrs old AND at least 40 lbs must continue to ride in a child restraint (booster).**
 - *Recommended* - Continue to use a seat beyond 9 until they can properly fit in a seatbelt without it.
- **Anyone 9-18 yrs of age must fit in a seat belt properly and wear the seatbelt anytime they are in the vehicle.**

The minimum fine in Colorado for violations of Colorado's CPS law is \$71. The driver can be fined for each unrestrained child in the vehicle. The infant seat, child safety seat and seat belt provisions of the law are primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child in the vehicle.