

# **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Sara Farris  
303-252-3017  
303-601-7577 (cell)  
[sfarris@northmetrofire.org](mailto:sfarris@northmetrofire.org)



## **North Metro Fire Changes Car Seat Inspections to First, Third Saturday**

**Broomfield/Northglenn, CO** — Beginning September 5, North Metro Fire Rescue District will offer free car seat inspections by appointment on the first and third Saturday of every month in order to better accommodate working residents. The inspections were previously held on Wednesdays, but will solely be held on Saturdays starting in September.

“Every year, we respond to numerous auto accidents involving children. One of the best way parents can help keep their children safe while in the car is by having a properly installed and fitted car seat,” said North Metro Fire’s Steve Gosselin, Division Chief of Fire Prevention.

Automobile accidents are the leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of 14. However, having a properly fitted car seat reduces the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

Parents, grandparents and caregivers are encouraged to make an appointment to ensure their car seat is properly installed and fitted to the child by a certified child passenger safety technician. Car seat inspections are free to all North Metro Fire residents and are available from 9 a.m. to noon at both a Broomfield and a Northglenn fire station. Residents can schedule their car seat inspection by calling North Metro Fire’s Headquarters at 303-452-9910.

### **Safety Tips for Parents**

According to the law, every child under 8 years of age shall be properly restrained in a child restraint system based on the manufacturer’s instructions. A child’s height, weight and age are important factors that guide which type of restraint is appropriate to use. All children under the age of one should be in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat of the vehicle. While children should remain in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible for the best protection, parents can transition to a forward-facing car seat once the child exceeds the height or weight limit in their rear-facing car seat.

Once a child outgrows a car seat, he or she is ready to transition to a booster seat. Children ages 4 to 7 and less than 4’9” tall who use booster seats are 45% less likely to be injured in a crash compared children who are restrained only by seat belts (Source: Colorado Dept. of Transportation). By properly following the instructions for the car seat or booster as well as child safety laws, parents can better protect their children from injury while in the car.

## **Online Help**

Additionally, there are several great resources online to help parents choose the right car seat or booster for their child and to learn about additional safety measures when in the car. Check out these federal and state resources:

[www.safercar.gov/parents/](http://www.safercar.gov/parents/)

[www.carseatscolorado.com](http://www.carseatscolorado.com)

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### **North Metro Fire Rescue District**

North Metro Fire Rescue District is dedicated to providing quality service to its residents through fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and specialized rescue. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 111,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams, Weld and Jefferson Counties.