

# Safety Fact Sheet



These programs offered by the Utah Safety Council offer practical strategies to reduce collision related injuries and fatalities on Utah roadways.

## DRIVING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury death among children ages 14 and under. To help keep children safe, keep these safety tips for driving to school or participating in car pools:

- Always use child safety seats and/or safety belts correctly every time you ride in a vehicle. Remain belted until exiting the vehicle. Never carry more passengers than there are safety belts in the vehicle. In Utah, a child who is under age eight is required to be fastened in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards. Under Utah law, a child cannot use a seatbelt alone until they are age eight or 4 feet 9 inches tall. It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on their height rather than their age. Check the instruction book or label of the child safety seat or booster seat to be sure it is the right seat for your child's weight and height.
- Don't store loose or heavy objects in the passenger area of the car that could injure someone if you need to stop suddenly.
- The driver should allow extra time in the schedule to avoid the pressure of driving too fast when late.
- Drop off your children as close to the school as possible so that they do not have to cross the street, and make sure they enter and leave the car on the curb side.
- Arrange to pick up your child at a safe spot away from the congestion of cars around the school.