

# Car seat clinic to reduce odds of injury

## Data shows 80% of seats improperly installed

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PORT COLBORNE — Don't know how to properly install a child's car seat?

Don't worry, trained technicians from St. John Ambulance Lincoln County can show you how.

A free car seat clinic will be held at Port Colborne fire hall, 3 Killaly St. W., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"April is seatbelt awareness month and this is the second clinic we've held at the fire hall," says Michelle Giancola of the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Community Policing Committee.

Niagara Regional Police statistics show that vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of children aged one to four years old and that a properly installed car seat can reduce the risk of serious injury or death by as much as 71%.

Car seat clinic data shows as many as 80% of car seats are improperly installed.

"Parents may have properly installed a car seat, but what about grandparents taking their grandchild out. They might not know how to install the seat. That's why the clinic is open to anyone, and it's free," says Giancola.

The event is being run by community policing in conjunction with Safe Communities Port Colborne, regional police and St. John Ambulance.

Parents are asked to call St. John Ambulance at 905-685-8964 to set up an appointment. Proper installation of a car seat will require 30 minutes and participants should bring car seat instructions and their vehicle owner's manual.

"Children are our most precious resource and we should do more to protect them. If this clinic helps save one child, it's worth it," says Giancola.

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