



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **Free Car Seat Safety Checks In Newbury**

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has once again joined forces with West Berkshire Council's Road Safety team to offer free child car seat safety checks. The checks will take place at Sainsbury's in Hectors Way, Newbury on Monday 14 April, between 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm.

A staggering 80% of child car seats are incorrectly fitted, which could potentially cause serious injuries or even death in the event of a road traffic collision (RTC). RBFRS Community Safety staff will check that child seats are fitted correctly in people's own vehicles and show them how to carry out their own safety checks in future. West Berkshire Council's Road Safety team will also be on hand to provide road safety information and advice.

During the previous car seat safety check event held in West Berkshire in January, 17 of the 29 seats tested were found to have faults. The most common fault was that seats had been fitted too loosely, which would mean that the seat would not be securely held in place in the event of an accident. More serious faults included worn or frayed seatbelts and 'buckle crunch', where the seatbelt buckle is put under too much pressure due to an incorrectly fitted car seat and can break in a collision.

Dan Ford, Community Safety team member, said: "Firefighters see the devastating aftermath of RTCs all too often and they are particularly tragic when babies and young children are involved. As part of our ongoing commitment to road safety we are delighted to be able to offer these free child car seat safety checks and hope that lots of people will take advantage of the scheme.

"You don't need to book an appointment, just turn up at any time between the given time slots and ask a member of the Community Safety team. It's not often you can pick up something truly lifesaving with your shopping but getting your child's car seat safety checked could save their life."

**ENDS**