

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** October 16, 2009  
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## Child Car Seat Inspection

The Washington State Patrol conducted educational child car seat safety inspections at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Chehalis Washington.

Troopers from Chehalis conducted child car seat safety inspections in the Wal-Mart parking lot from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. today. The inspections focused on proper instillation of the car seat, and having the proper child safety seat matched with the height, weight, and age of the child.

Washington state law requires that children less than eight years old be restrained in appropriate child restraint systems (car seats or booster seats) unless the child is 4'9" tall. Children who are 8 or older, or who are 4'9" or taller, must be restrained with a vehicle seatbelt or appropriate child safety restraint. Children under 13 years of age must be transported in rear seats where it is practical to do so.

Washington State has created one of the strongest car seat safety laws in the United States. The new law, which went into effect June 1, 2007, also requires infants who are under one year of age and under 20 pounds to ride in a rear-facing car seat. This law is also known as the Anton Skeen Law, named for a child who died in a rollover crash, even though he was properly restrained by state law at the time.

Trooper John Matagi stated it would have taken us a month of working the road to have inspected this many car seats. The Washington State Patrol is committed to keeping our states most precious resource safe, our children.

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