Child Car Safety Seats

Child Car Safety Seats are required by state law for children less than 4 years of age.

Thieves look for certain features when determining which items to steal. They prefer easily concealable items that are easy to carry off, have a decent resale value and no indication of whom the item belongs to in case they are stopped during the theft. Many electronic devices often seen on campus including laptop computers, MP3 players, Personal Data Assistants and calculators fit all of these criteria. While there isn’t much an owner can do to make these items difficult to carry off or lower their resale value, they can certainly mark the items so the proper owner is clearly indicated.

The Department of Public Safety is a proponent of Operation Identification. The goal of Operation Identification is to mark valuables with stickers and/or etchings that clearly show that the item can easily be traced back to the original owner in order to deter theft and aid in recovery if the item is stolen. M-Stores and Risk Management, together with the Department of Public Safety, mark many of the University owned.

Child Car Safety Seats

"We're only going to the grocery store."

"He'll stop crying if I hold him on my lap."

"She thinks she's too old."

Does any of this sound familiar? They’re all common reasons parents give for not putting their children in appropriate child safety seats or safety belts. Unfortunately, unrestrained or improperly restrained children are far more likely to be injured, suffer more severe injuries and potentially die in the event of a crash.

Car seats, when correctly installed and used, are extremely effective in saving children’s lives. They reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for children ages 1 to 4. However, child safety seats can be complicated to install and use. Installation mistakes are common. In fact, research indicates that as many as four out of five child safety seats are installed incorrectly or used incorrectly. Factors contributing to the difficulty of using seats correctly include a variety of age and size requirements, incompatibility between the car seat and vehicle design, and improper seating position.

(see Seats page 3)
Sixteen computers were stolen from the Hatcher Library between September 12, 2005 and November 7, 2005. DPS conducted a plainclothes detail in the library where officers placed and monitored a decoy laptop computer in a study carrel. During the detail police officers arrested a suspect for attempting to steal the computer. Based on investigations it is believed the suspect sold fourteen laptop computers on eBay.com.

Eight of nine laptop computers with known serial numbers have been recovered. The suspect has been charged with Larceny from Building as well as Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property greater than $1,000. The case is currently in court.

Five victims did not know serial numbers for their computer and therefore DPS and local law enforcement was not able to confirm if the eBay buyer was in possession of their computer.

Property Recovery Tip- write down your serial numbers! Serial numbers can be entered into the Law Enforcement Information Network. Police departments regularly recover stolen property but are unable to return the items to their rightful owners because those owners are unknown because this information is not able to be entered into LEIN.

**Emergency Contact Sheets**

Imagining this; "It’s Winter, 3:15 am, and there is a flood in a building. No one is inside the building and the water is now running from the third floor down to the second floor, along the way damaging offices, computer equipment, labs, etc." The scene can stop right there because unfortunately, this scenario plays out all too often.

In such a scenario a DPS communications officer would receive a call after hours regarding an incident at a building. The first thing DPS communications would do is dispatch an officer to investigate the problem and then contact the Plant Department to fix the problem if necessary. The very next step for DPS would be to contact staff of the building. Even though this is step three, contacting staff is a very important part of the procedure. Who knows the inside of a building better then the staff that works there?

With so many buildings and leased offices on or near campus it is difficult for DPS officers to know every feature of the insides of each and every building, even though we do try. Staff will be able to assist by letting DPS know what may be in a particular office or lab, relevant history of the building, which rooms may be alarmed, and what the alarm codes are for the rooms. The more information that DPS can obtain from staff, the better odds DPS has in locating/fixing the problem with minimal damage to any part of the building.

DPS is able to contact staff by looking up their number(s) on the Emergency Contact Sheet (ECS) that the Facilities Manager or their designee fills out. The ECS lists, in order, the names and any contact numbers for the staff members who are to be contacted in case of an incident that occurs at the building. The names and numbers listed should be for each area in the building that falls under a specific 'person'. This way DPS will have the ability to contact the correct people for each area. Those individuals should have complete access to that specific area as well as the ability to make decisions about major events or alarm situations in their area. In some cases it may be easier or may simply require that more than one contact form be used for the building. Please remember in the event that you have a staffing change that affects this list, please contact us as soon as possible so we can make the changes in our files. In addition, if DPS hold's alarm codes for your area please notify us of changes with those.

It is the goal of DPS to work with all staff, students, and visitors of the University in order to make our community a safer place for all. If you have any questions regarding the Emergency Contact Sheet please feel free to contact DPS at 763-3434 and we will be happy to answer any of your questions.
Which car safety seat is the best?

No one seat is the "best" or "safest." The "best" seat is the one that fits your child's size, is correctly installed, and is used properly every time you drive. When shopping for a car safety seat, keep the following in mind:

- Price doesn't always matter. Higher prices can mean added features that may or may not make the seat easier to use.
- When you find a seat you like, try it out. Put your child in it and adjust the harnesses and buckles. Make sure it fits in your car. Follow the instructions that came with the car safety seat.
- Keep in mind that pictures or displays of car safety seats in stores may not show them being used the proper way.

Important safety rules

- Always use a car safety seat, starting with your baby's first ride home from the hospital.
- Never place a child in a rear-facing car safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle that has an airbag.
- The safest place for all children to ride is in the back seat.
- Set a good example—always wear your seat belt. Help your child form a lifelong habit of buckling up.
- Remember that each car safety seat is different. Read and keep the instructions that came with your seat.
- Read the owner's manual that came with your car on how to correctly install car safety seats.

The Department of Public Safety has three officers who are trained to inspect child car safety seats. If you would like to arrange an inspection of your child safety seat, please feel free to contact DPS at 763-3434 for an appointment.
Meet your Department of Public Safety TCOP Officers! Who is assigned to your building? Guess the campus building being described below and find out!

1. A directional Hall, that starts with the 23rd letter of the alphabet.  ** Officer Anderson

2. A Hall from above.  ** Officer Dupuis

3. A Building one would go to if they needed a filling fixed.  ** Officer West

4. A tower that begins with the second letter of the alphabet.  ** Officer Rubino

5. An Auditorium that you slide and/or ski down.  ** Officer Cook

6. To name this Hall, when driving one needs to stay in their own.  ** Officer Cook

7. The 3rd letter of the alphabet twice and something small.  ** Officer Pressly

8. To name this House, one would have to think of the 40th US President’s first name and where one could go to get a “quarter pounder”.  ** Officer Bryant

9. To name this Center, one should think of the big three auto companies, not Ford, not GM, but.  ** Officer Carelli

10. To name this building, one would have to think of the two ways one can go on an elevator, “_____” and down and the first name of the 35th US president.  ** Officer Branch

11. To name this Library, one would have to think of what the Department of Public Safety enforces, “state.  ** Officer Beatty

12. This Tower is the University of Michigan’s mascot.  ** Officer Kohtz

13. To name this building, one would have to think of a Greek mythology figure and know where “risk management” for the university is located.  ** Officer Lucas

14. The state the University of Michigan is located in and what “LEO, POAM, AFSCME, and IUOE” are.  ** Officer Rice

15. This Building is the last name of the 4th US President.  ** Officer Zavala

16. When filling out paperwork, they usually ask you for your _____, address, and phone number.  ** Officer Upton

Answers:

Our Mission:

To contribute to and promote a safe and secure community while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons utilizing facilities and programs of The University of Michigan

DPS Team Community Oriented Policing Offices

Wolverine Tower
First floor near the elevators
3001 South State Street
734-615-1596

Palmer Commons
Ground floor off of Palmer Drive
100 Washtenaw Avenue
734-763-9395

Pierpont Commons
Basement northeast corner
2101 Bonisteel
734-647-4066