

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER EAST PARTICIPATING IN SAFE RIDERS
CHILD SAFETY SEAT DISTRIBUTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Program Provides Educational Classes and Child Safety Seat Assistance to Low-Income Families

WHO: Pregnancy Resource Center East

WHAT: **Pregnancy Resource Center East** is a participant in the Safe Riders Child Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program. Safe Riders coordinates a statewide child safety seat distribution and education program. The goal of the program is to increase use of child safety seats and consequently decrease the number child injuries and fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes. This is accomplished by working with a variety of local community groups, who in turn offer community education classes in which a family can receive a new child safety seat and instruction on how to use the seat properly. Parents interested in participating in the program should call Safe Riders toll-free at 800-252-8255, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Qualifying parents will be referred to a program in their area of Texas to contact in order to get scheduled for the next available child safety seat class. Seats are not always available in every area of the state and programs do not always have a supply of seats.

WHEN: Monthly classes by appointment only

WHERE: (Baytown, Texas)

WHY: In Texas, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for children ages 14 and under. In 2009 in Texas 91 motor vehicle fatalities occurred in Texas among children under age 14 (DSHS, 2012). According to Safe Kids Worldwide, in the United States each year approximately 1,800 children ages 14 and under are killed as occupants in motor vehicles and more than 280,000 are injured. Half of the children that died were unrestrained (no safety belt or child restraint).

Safe Riders is a child passenger safety education and training program sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders

Pregnancy Resource Center East provides care and support at no charge to women facing unplanned pregnancies in Baytown and surrounding areas.