



Keep Them in the Back At All Times

Children, whether they are being protected by restraint devices or not, are more vulnerable to serious injury when they are in the front passenger area of a vehicle, according to the Renault sponsored Saved by the Belt campaign which is a major project of the Committee for Active Road Safety (CARS).

A spokesperson for Saved by the Belt recommends that children always be housed in the rear area of a vehicle and that proper restraint systems appropriate to their weight and age be utilised to keep them safe. "Major research in Europe and the United States has shown that there is a high level of risk to especially small children in the front of a vehicle. Even air bags fitted to a vehicle present a danger to them as the force of the deployment of this safety device can cause serious injury to infants.

"The attention paid to the safety of children in vehicles by their parents generally leaves much to be desired. Too many parents don't ensure that they have the correct restraint systems for their children and some just don't bother about restraint systems or seatbelts at all - children standing up free of any safety device or on front seats are quite a common sight on our roads.

"Making a point of always ensuring that small children are in a child restraint system safely in the rear of the car, even on short journeys would contribute to the saving of many young lives," says the spokesperson.

The Saved by the Belt initiative is the brainchild of the Guild of Motoring Journalists, Bridgestone Committee for Active Road Safety (CARS) and is sponsored by Renault South Africa. Motorists who owe their lives to having worn a seatbelt in an accident are urged to register with the Saved by the Belt initiative by submitting a short description of their experience via e-mail to seatbelt@worldonline.co.za, or the Renault website www.renault.com. Registration can also be done by mail to Saved by the Belt at P O Box 212, La Montagne 0184, or by fax to 012 803 8399.

People registering with the initiative receive a certificate and a specially designed lapel badge to assist in promoting the benefits of seatbelt wearing.

