

South Africa finally implementing “Childsafe” seatbelt laws to protect children

From April 2015, South African motorists are going to have to take a more serious approach to road safety. The country has among the highest numbers of road deaths and trauma, particularly of children. Until now, wearing seatbelts has been compulsory for older children and adults, yet not for children under the age of three. Appropriate safety seats and booster seats have also not been required and there have been no rules against children older than three sitting in the front seat.

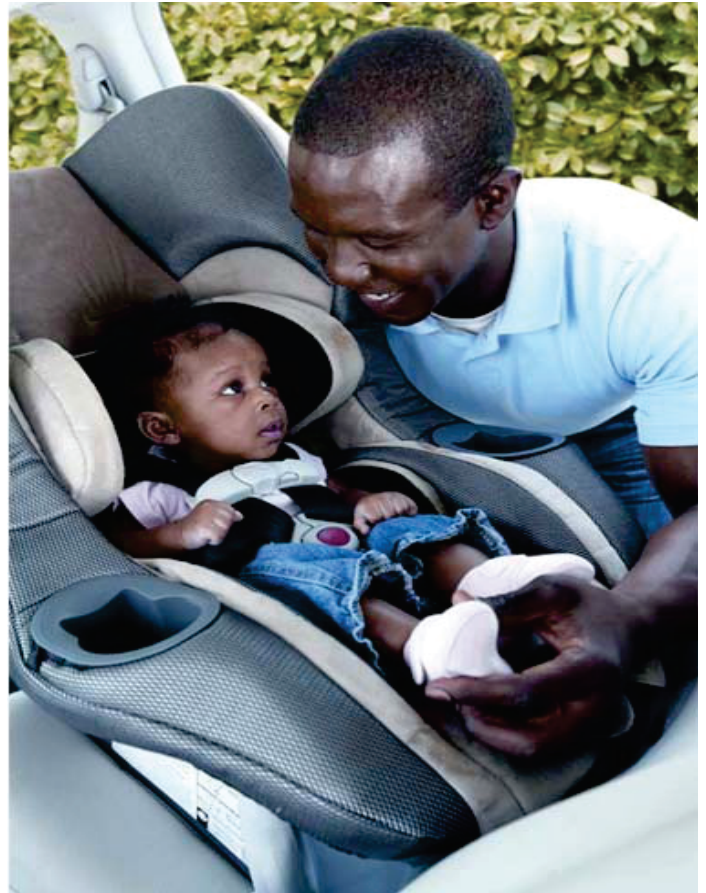
Thankfully the Department of Transport has taken this fatal anomaly into account, and has published amendments to the National Road Traffic Regulations 2000 under the National Road Traffic Act, 1996. *"There is also a requirement that will require that children that are being transported in a motor vehicle to be buckled up with appropriate child restraints"*, says department spokesperson Tiyani Rikhotso. This requirement applies to children who cannot fit on the current seat belts that are fitted in motor vehicles and is only going to be applicable after six months from the date of publication of this regulation to provide the general public sufficient time to comply. This will be around May 2015.

These new regulations have been welcomed by trauma doctors and road safety campaigners. *"It's fantastic"*, says Prof Sebastian van As, the president of Childsafe and the Head of Trauma Unit at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. *"It's long overdue. For 20 years there has been no seatbelt law for children under the age of three. It was an indictment of our country, and was probably done for people who could not afford to buy child safety seats"*.

Children under the age of six are unable to secure their own safety; it is up to adults to do this. The new law includes minibus taxis. *"It is possible to do – we even have ambulances now that have special safety belts"*, he adds, but points out that at present buses are exempt, although this is under negotiation: *"There is no doubt that even luxury buses should have proper safety"*, van As says, referring to high-fatality bus accidents on intercity roads.

Read more:

<http://www.southafrica.info/services/carseats-251114.htm#ixzz3SCEu2AXg>



Safe Travel to School Project: Progress Update

The Safe Travel to School (STTS) project, a joint initiative between Childsafe and Discovery Insure, was launched on the 30th January 2014. Just over a year later, the first phase, the pilot, is nearing completion and we are now preparing the ground to launch the project nationally. Over the next three years, we plan to roll out the project to several more provinces.

The STTS project aims to make our roads safer for school children by focusing primarily on the drivers of scholar transport vehicles. Daily, thousands of school children are carried over vast distances, crammed into bakkies and other unroadworthy vehicles. These vehicles are sometimes driven by unlicensed and reckless drivers. Recently, we have seen many children killed in crashes involving such vehicles. The impact of these crashes has been horrifying. It is such incidents that this project aims to address.

Through a series of interventions such as vehicle roadworthy support, eye tests training and incentives, the Project aims to develop cohorts of safer drivers, and thus reduce the number of crashes involving school children. An essential intervention is the installation of the Discovery Insure DQ tracker, which monitors driving behaviour. Together with other interventions, the drivers are encouraged to improve their driving behaviour and so compete with other drivers for cash incentives.

The pilot has recruited 76 drivers from three areas along high risk traffic routes: those driving along the N2 to town, those driving along the R300 and Voortrekker road in the Northern Suburbs and along Klipfontein road in the Athlone area.



Athlone drivers attend a first aid course in the Childsafe demonstration and training room

Pilot phase achievements	
Activity	Number
Roadworthy test	84
DQ tracker devices	79
Wheel braces & jacks	25
Seatbelts	6
Tyres	76
Eye tests	16
Sunglasses	76
Fire extinguishers, triangles & First Aid kits	76
First Aid training	76
Defensive driving training	24
Incentive pay-outs	15

The project has also had other positive spinoffs: drivers are overcoming the traditional racial divides and are working together, relationships with schools, government departments and law enforcement are starting to improve and importantly; an acknowledgement of scholar transport drivers as a relevant force is starting to develop.

With the pilot programme almost complete, we will now begin rolling out the actual program into the rest of broader Cape Town and this expansion is going to bring on board at least 1500 drivers of school transport. The STTS project team will expand too. Mr Siphso Xakekile has just been brought on board to assist with the Cape Province rollout.



A cape Town driver undergoes an eye test at our optometrist in the city



Mr Siphso Xakekile



Incentive pay-out session

childsafe NEWS
KEEP KIDS FREE FROM HARM

Do you have any safety news, information or comments?

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The Childsafe News is also available in PDF Format, if you would like to receive an electronic version of the quarterly newsletter please email your details to: capfsa@pgwc.gov.za

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Chidsafe Safer Candle Project

Safer Candle Project demonstrations, given by Chidsafe volunteers, continue in the patient waiting areas of Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (RXH) Out Patients Department. With load-shedding/power cuts, the Safer Candle is welcomed by parents for safer candle use in the home.

By the end of 2014, a grand total of 8472 jar units (recycled jar, dry sand, half candles and an educational leaflet) had been distributed since inception of the Project in 2006. A further 30 jar units were distributed in February 2015.

Chidsafe is grateful to Woolworths Trust for their donation of candles and other support of the Project. Thanks are also due to Jenny Knobel, retired RXH sister and volunteer at Chidsafe; also to Caryl Hodgson and others for donations of recycled jars and candles.



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet

MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet is one of South Africa's biggest fundraising programmes, raising over R3 million every month for over 9000 schools, charities and animal welfare or environmental organisations. MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet allows you to make a difference just by shopping, because every time you swipe your card at any of our 12 national or numerous local partners they will make a donation on your behalf to the school or cause you choose at absolutely no cost to you!

The good news is that Chidsafe South Africa is a registered beneficiary on this program. We encourage you all to please add or select us as one of your beneficiaries on your card.

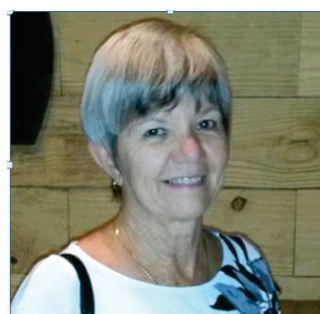


The New People

Introducing Najuwa Arendse and Zoe Lotz

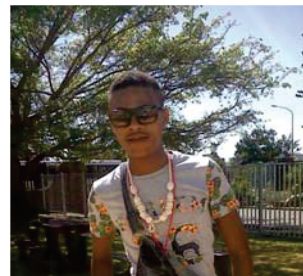
Najuwa Arendse (left) is now on board managing the Walk this Way Project which is funded by FedEx. She worked at the Medical Research Council-University South Africa as researcher for over six years and continued as a research consultant. She has extensive experience in managing community-based projects concerning child unintentional and accidental injuries and its prevention efforts. Her interests include traffic injury prevention, adolescent smoking, child and maternal health as well as community engagement approaches.

Zoe Lotz (right) trained as a Medical Technologist and worked at Frere Hospital and Conradie Hospital. Once her children reached school going age she then worked in the Surgical Research Laboratories at the University of Cape Town Medical School for many years until retiring. She is very excited to be involved in the Walk this Way Project.



New interns join Childsafe

This year we are joined by Nontobeko (right) and Vuyani (left) from the Action Volunteers Africa (AVA). These two have been eager to learn and contribute towards making South Africa safer for children.



Invitation to become a member!

Three good reasons why you as an individual or parent, school or organisation/ company should become a member of CHILDSAFE a campaign of The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA)

- Injuries are the biggest killer of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years.
- Your membership will actively contribute towards preventing unnecessary, costly accidents in our country.
- As a member you will be kept up to date on current issues and resources related to child safety

Levels of Membership

Regular	Annual	R100
Bronze	Annual	R500
Silver	2 Years	R5 000

Childsafe has also devised a package for Honourable Membership, for those who wish to become Gold, Diamond or Disa Members of The Foundation. For further information contact us.

I would like to become a "Friend of the Foundation" Minimum R25

I would like to become a member of the Foundation (includes newsletter)

Regular Bronze Silver Gold

- I would like a years subscription to the "Childsafe NEWS" R30 annually
- I would like to receive more information on the activities of the Foundation
- I would like to become a project sponsor, please contact me
- I would like to do voluntary work for the Foundation

Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss
 Name:
 Organisation/Institution/Company:
 Postal address:
 Telephone: Home: Work:..... Cell:.....
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Membership gives you access to:

- CAPFSA's statistical information on child injuries
- Automatic subscription to the Quarterly Newsletter—Childsafe NEWS
- Certificate to confirm Membership
- Safety educational materials such as videos, leaflets and other materials at substantial discount
- Other benefits—safety leaflets and posters on request (When available)

Return this information to Childsafe, a campaign of The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 791, Rondebosch, 7701 or capfsa@pgwc.gov.za

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