This week we focus on promoting safety belt use and car seats.

- **Safety Belts**
  - A seat belt is your vehicle’s best safety feature. But, it only works if you use it.
  - Florida’s Safety Belt Law requires that the driver, all passengers in the front seat, and all children under the age of 18 wear a seat belt (or child restraint device).
  - Florida’s Safety Belt Law is a primary enforcement law, meaning that an officer can stop a vehicle and issue a citation simply for observing a seat belt violation.
  - According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, seat belts saved an estimated 12,174 lives in 2012. For drivers and front-seat passengers, using a lap and shoulder belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by 60% in an SUV, van or pickup and by 45% in the car.
  - Encourage everyone in the vehicle to buckle up, including those in the back seat.

- **Child Car Seats**
  - Florida law requires that children 5 years of age and under to be secured by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device.
  - Current law allows children aged 4 and 5 to be secured in a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a safety belt. Beginning January 1, 2015 children aged 4 and 5 will have to be secured in a car seat or booster seat.
  - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, restraint use among young children often depends upon the driver’s seat belt use. Almost 40% of children riding with unbelted drivers were themselves unrestrained.
  - Follow your car seat manufacturer’s instructions and your vehicle owner’s manual on how to install and properly use the car seat.
  - Make sure the car seat is the right fit for the child and the vehicle and that it can be installed and used correctly every time.