

# THE POLICE SIREN

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES



A newsletter dedicated to enhancing the communication of safety programs and services to students, faculty and staff

## Kids Ride Safer With Seat Checks

In our last issue we had just hosted our very first Child Safety Seat Inspection & Installation event in March. Since then the service continues to gain popularity among families in the community. Our certified safety seat technicians have gone on to hold three more events on campus at both the Associated Students Children's Center and at the police department. When parents (many expectant moms and soon to be dads) couldn't make an event, car seat technicians scheduled individual appointments to accommodate their needs. Overall, some 43 child seats have been inspected.

Most parents and families with small children aren't aware that several municipal law enforcement agencies offer car seat inspections FREE of charge. When it comes to children, safety is a priority and considering the statistics why wouldn't you take advantage of a free service like this!

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), "car crashes are the number one killer of children 1 to 12 years old in the United States. The best way to protect them in the car is to put them in the right seat, at the right time, and use it the right way."

With so many different kinds of car seat styles and models how do you know what the best fit is for your child? Now consider the vehicle(s) you use to transport your child(ren), how well does the car seat fit in each car? Correctly. Do you use the LATCH system or a seat belt? You could read the entire car seat manual (if you know where it is) and the section in your vehicle owner's manual on installing car seats but why leave your child's safety to chance. With so much to consider it's no surprise three out of four car seats are improperly installed (NHTSA).



Above: Sgt. Frank Gudani & Crime Prevention Coordinator Dan Foster install an infant seat for a CSUN staff member.

For parents and families with older children it's important that you're familiar with California's laws on seat belts for children. As of January, children age eight or older may now wear a seat belt IF it fits them properly, otherwise they need to use a booster seat. How do you know if your child is ready to start using the vehicle's seat belt? Try the 5-Step Test!

### The 5-Step Test:

- 1. Does the child sit ALL the way back against the seat back?**
- 2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?**
- 3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?**
- 4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs? (NOT across the stomach).**
- 5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?**

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder belt and lap belt fit properly for the best protection in a crash. Your child will be more comfortable too!

Right: When a belt doesn't fit your child it rubs against their face and crosses over their stomach.



**To schedule an appointment, contact CSUN PD at: (818) 677-5820.**

Photos and 5-Step Test provided by: SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org).

### R.A.D. IS BACK!

Rape Aggression Defense - better known as RAD, is our women's basic self-defense class and a 12 hour class is just around the corner. See side two "2013 Programs & Events" for more info.



## From Inside the Kennel

Our K9 Unit has undergone some changes over the past several months. We said goodbye to some and have welcomed new faces. In October, CSUN PD's retired K9 Frieda passed away. Frieda joined the department in 2008 with Corporal Tom Finnerty after serving the Channel Islands campus for over four years. During her years of service Frieda provided explosives ordinance detection services for many national and international dignitaries, such as then-Senator Barack Obama. Please join us in offering your heartfelt condolences to Cpl. Finnerty and his family on the loss of a beloved family member and police K9 partner.



Cpl. Finnerty and Frieda (left) during Frieda's retirement ceremony November 2008.

The unit also bid a happy farewell to K9 Dozer who retired in September after over two and a half years of service.

New to the K9 Unit is Officer Anthony Vargas who has taken over as handler for K9 Mitch. Officers Vargas and Mitch completed narcotics school in June and patrol school in August 2012 and have been working the beat ever since. Another new addition to the K9 Unit is four-year old Isy (pronounced, "Izzy"). Find out more about Isy and the K9 unit in February at Dozer's retirement party (Details to follow). See side two for more photos from the K9 Unit!

California State University  
**Northridge**

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Issue 10, December, 2012

## Kennel (continued from side one)



Cpl. Finnerty and Isy after her first day on the job (October) after police received a bomb threat.



Above: Officer Vargas and Mitch both order commands to a "suspect" during a training exercise.



## CONNECT WITH US!

*Be a part of our community!*

Follow us online!

[www-admn.csun.edu/police](http://www-admn.csun.edu/police)



Join CSUN PD on Facebook and get news and information on workshops, programs, services, events and crime alerts! [www.facebook.com/csunpolice](http://www.facebook.com/csunpolice)

Sign up for the daily crime log and receive week-day emails regarding criminal activity on campus.



Email: [kit.espinosa@csun.edu](mailto:kit.espinosa@csun.edu)



Receive public safety information directly from CSUN PD and other law enforcement agencies. [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

## Tips for a Safe & Happy Holiday

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.
- If you're traveling, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up the mail and newspaper and park his or her motor vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Be wary of solicitors for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated.
- Don't let friends and family drink and drive. Plan ahead. Carpool with a designated driver, arrange for alternative transportation or for an overnight stay.

For additional tips, contact:

Dan Foster at:  
(818) 677-5820 or  
[daniel.foster@csun.edu](mailto:daniel.foster@csun.edu)



## 2013 PROGRAMS & EVENTS !



Classes are open to students, faculty, staff & the community!

- R.A.D.- Basic Self Defense for Women (January 10,11, 14 & 15)
- Basic Residential Security (February 14)
- radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education (February 18-22)
- Building & Floor Marshal Training (March 12 OR May 16)
- Emergency Personal Preparedness (March 19)
- Identity Theft Prevention (March 21)
- radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education (April 8-12)
- Pepper Spray Defense (April 25)
- Dealing with Workplace Violence & Threats of Violence (Part 1: May 1, Part 2: May 7) - CSUN STAFF/FACULTY ONLY

Sign up on our website. Look for, "Workshops for the Community"

<http://www-admn.csun.edu/police>

Or at: 677-5820 or 677-7922

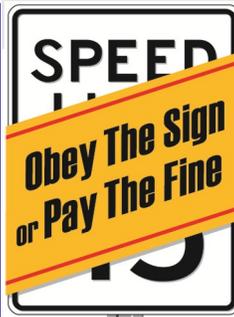
### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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### TRAFFIC SAFETY CORNER

Have a question or concern about traffic related issues on campus?

Contact the Traffic Safety Unit at:  
(818) 677-6866 or  
[trafficsafety@csun.edu](mailto:trafficsafety@csun.edu)

**Remember!**

**A bicycle is a vehicle. Cyclists must obey the same rules of the road as cars.**