



# News

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## CAR SEAT CRUSH – ROAD SAFETY WEEK

**The big guns** have been brought in to make sure second hand and unreliable children's car seats can never be used again.

A 60 ton Challenger tank was used to ensure a collection of children's seats were well and truly crushed. They had been gathered by North Yorkshire County Council's Road Safety Officers working with the 95 Alive York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership.

This week is National Road Safety Week and the Army are hosting a series of events to mark it. Soldiers from the Royal Dragoon Guards at Alma Barracks, Catterick Garrison, offered to crush the seats to emphasise how important it is that unreliable child car seats are taken out of circulation.

North Yorkshire County Councillor John Fort, Executive Member for Road Safety said: "The whole point is that child car seats keep children safe in the event of a collision. If a car seat has been involved in a previous crash it could be damaged. This may not be obvious, but it could mean it will not provide the necessary restraint to stop a child being hurt."

"It is vital that parents know the history of second hand car seats, it's not advisable to buy one from an unknown source such as a car boot sale or an advert."

The Royal Dragoon Guards are currently in training for operations in Afghanistan next year. Road Safety Officers work closely with units at Catterick which is the biggest army base in Britain, to encourage the soldiers to Think road safety, to share the roads and take responsibility.

Commanding Officer, Lt Col James Carr-Smith said: "We're only too keen to help with the car seat crush. Many of our soldiers have young children so this is an important lesson for them to learn. They need to know that their children are kept safe. These potentially dangerous seats need to be properly disposed of."

Richmond Road Safety and Travel Awareness Officer Neil Strickland said: It's recommended that people get children's car seats from a reputable dealer, or if they are second hand to make sure they know the history of the seat, that it hasn't been involved in a collision and it comes from a trustworthy source.

"Seats which have been involved in a collision should be disposed of properly, the straps and harnesses should be cut so it cannot be used, and it should be taken to a refuse centre to be crushed."



Photograph – The Challenger Tank makes sure unreliable and old children’s car seat can never be used again.

For further information contact

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