



# TECH TALK

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The Georgia Resource for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

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## **Amidst Change, Technician Associations**

### **Hold the Key to the Future**

Steve Davis, Director, GTIPI

We are in the midst of many exciting changes in the child passenger safety field. National SAFE KIDS has replaced AAA as the certifying body for the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety (NSCPS) Technician program and an updated CPST curriculum will be available soon. As we know, there is accountability related to any funding source; thus, further changes in Georgia include GOHS establishing a CPS Advisory Board to streamline the CPS program, opening the lines of communication and reducing any duplication of services provided statewide. Details to be provided by GOHS later.

Amidst all the changes, the one element over which we have complete control is reaching out to each other to support child passenger safety activities. The recently completed statewide tour to promote the institution of Technician Associations throughout Georgia was very encouraging. I had the pleasure of meeting with many of you who are serious about your dedication to child passenger safety. I applaud those

who have made a commitment to accept the title of "champion" in your area.

We have over 1,400 people trained as technicians in Georgia. At present, approximately 600 are currently certified with less than a third of these certified technicians actively engaged in promoting child passenger safety. I am convinced that CPS advocates joining together represents the single most-viable approach to making Georgia children safer when being transported. The Technician Associations hold the key to making this dream a reality.

I am excited about the possibilities, but making it happen will not be easy. GTIPI cannot do it alone. You may be assured that we will make every effort to provide the support required, but success will rely on each of you taking responsibility to make Technician Associations a reality. I look forward to the future because I know that working together we can make a difference.



Visit GTIPI at [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org)

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## The Survey Results Are In...

Thanks to all the technicians who sent in their information for the first annual Child Passenger Safety Technician Survey. As you know, a significant measure of the impact of the Georgia Child Passenger Safety program is the extent to which the Child Passenger Safety Technicians use their training and teach others. During fiscal year 2003, the Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute initiated an annual assessment of certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians residing in Georgia. A total of 1400 surveys were distributed and over 425 responded, giving a response rate of over 30%. Following are highlights from the survey:



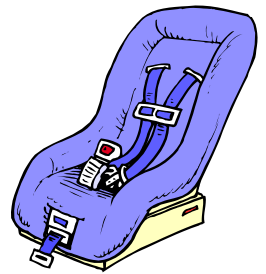
- ❖ 195 technicians initiated, led or assisted with 2,734 *group educational sessions* reaching 47,588 individuals.
- ❖ 245 technicians initiated, led or assisted with 1,538 *Child Safety Seat Check Events* reaching a total of 21,093 individuals.
- ❖ 209 technicians served an average of 123 people with *individual consultations* for a total outreach of 25,613 people.
- ❖ 270 technicians provided individual assistance with child safety seats to a total of 12,558 people.
- ❖ 54 technicians initiated, led or assisted with teaching 480 people in 16-hour practitioner-level child passenger safety education classes.
- ❖ 42 technicians initiated, led or assisted with teaching Georgia Teens Ride With P.R.I.D.E. sessions to parents, teens or trainers.
- ❖ 50 technicians wrote grants for securing child safety seats for a total award of \$1,856,746.

WOW, THANKS TO THOSE  
WHO RESPONDED TO THE  
SURVEY AND KEEP UP THE  
**GREAT WORK!**



A random drawing from surveys returned was held. The winners of the child safety seats were:

Nicole Dorough, Dallas  
Tammy Estrada, Savannah  
Ruth Katherine Gama, Atlanta  
Teresa Kendrick, Kennesaw  
Matthew Locke, Dalton  
Suzanne Mock, Carrollton  
Rebekah Revels, Statesboro  
Dedra Sims, Temple  
Sharon Smith, Calhoun



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## The Legal Eagle



MaryAnn Robinson,  
Training Coordinator,  
GTIPI

Georgia Law 51-1-20.2 provides for a limitation on the liability of certified child passenger safety technicians and sponsoring organizations. To be covered by the law, a technician must be acting "within the scope of the training". Just a few reminders of some important points when checking seat installation:

- ❖ Harness straps should be snug. The snug straps should not allow any slack and lay in a relatively straight line without sagging. Properly adjusted, the straps will not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position. **The two-finger test is a thing of the past.**
- ❖ Backless and high back belt positioning booster seats must be installed with a lap and shoulder belt. **They CANNOT be installed with a lap belt only.**
- ❖ **NEVER use a locking clip with a locking latch plate on a lap belt only with no retractor.** This belt system is frequently found in the center seating position. This system has no backup retractor to lock the belt in place if the locking clip fails.

- ❖ **Parents or caregivers are always the LAST ONE TO INSTALL A CHILD RESTRAINT.** Technicians are educators - not installers of seats. Seat check forms should denote this critical information.
- ❖ One of the latest American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations reads: "Children should face the rear of the vehicle until they are at least 1 year of age **and** weigh at least 20 pounds to decrease the risk of cervical spine injury in the event of a crash. Infants who weigh 20 pounds before 1 year of age should ride rear facing in a convertible seat or infant seat approved for higher weights until at least 1 year of age. **If a car safety seat accommodates children rear facing to higher weights, for optimal protection, the child should remain rear facing until reaching the maximum weight for the car safety seat, as long as the top of the head is below the top of the seat back.**" You can review the entire Policy Statement, "Selecting and Using the Most Appropriate Car Safety Seats for Growing Children: Guidelines for Counseling Parents" at [www.aap.org/policy/re0116.html](http://www.aap.org/policy/re0116.html).




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## Tech Tabloid

Melanie Elliott,  
Regional Coordinator,  
GTIPI



Heard rumors? They could be true, but these are the facts:

- ❖ There is no longer a 6-month grace period for re-certification. Whenever your expiration date is listed - that's it!
- ❖ When you do re-certify and pass your test, your certification is for 2 years.

- ❖ Only a new wallet size card will be issued when you re-certify. The 8x10 certificates will no longer be issued.
- ❖ A new online registration for CPS classes to be held is being developed and will be in use March 2004.
- ❖ As of January 1, 2004, SAFE KIDS will be the new certifying body for the NSCPS program. AAA will no longer assume that role.

Stay in touch! For further information, sign up for automatic email updates at [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org). New things are happening every day.

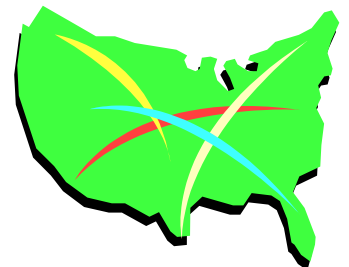
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## Tech Tidbits

Mindy Linton,  
Regional Coordinator,  
GTIPI



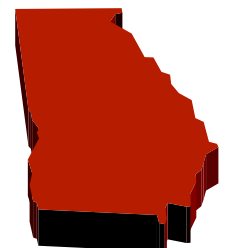
The following statistics are the reasons we work together to promote CPS education:

### National

- ❖ Motor vehicle crash injuries continue to be the leading cause of death in children ages 4 to 12 (nationally and in Georgia). Correct use of child safety seats reduces the risk of fatal injury by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. Correct use of booster seats by children 4 to 8 years old significantly increases their chances of surviving a crash.
- ❖ Riding in the rear seat of a vehicle instead of the front seat reduces the risk of fatal injury by 36% among children 12 and younger.
- ❖ More vehicle crash-related deaths occur among children on weekends (Fri, Sat. & Sun.) between the hours of 3-6 p.m.

### Georgia

- ❖ Between 1994 and 2000, 225 children ages 5-12 were killed in motor vehicle



crashes while riding as passengers. Of these 225 children, 110 (48.9%) were not restrained in any way and 76 (33.8%) were restrained with seat belts alone. Only 1 out of 3 were wearing seat belts.

- ❖ Out of the 225 children fatally injured from 1994 to 2000, 83 (36.9%) were riding in the front seat of the vehicle.
- ❖ In Georgia, over 30 children ages 5-12 are killed in motor vehicle crashes each year.

For further roadway safety facts that relate to children, visit the GOHS website at [www.gohs.state.ga.us](http://www.gohs.state.ga.us).

Source: GOHS website

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## The Seat Beat

Vandie Enloe,  
Training Coordinator, GTIPI

### Evenflo Instruction Manual Changes

1. Evenflo has issued four letters regarding acceptable harness strap use for the following convertible seats: Tribute 5, Titan 5, Vanguard 5, and Victory 5. The shoulder strap of the above seats has an inner position and an outer position. The inner position is intended to be used only with a rear-facing child. The outer position is intended to be used with forward-facing children. These positions were developed using published data for child sizes, similar to the tables that pediatricians use to assess child growth. Evenflo kept the two shoulder strap positions separate to minimize any confusion on the part of caregivers as to which position to use and when.

It is permissible to use the outer shoulder strap position rear-facing if the inner shoulder strap position is too tight for the child.

**However, the inner position must not be used forward-facing under any circumstances.**

2. On September 2, 2003, Evenflo issued a letter stating that they are revising their instructions with respect to fold down vehicle armrests. Evenflo's

instructions for rear-facing child restraints in front of fold down armrests will replace the previous warning language with the following statement:

*"Fold down armrests could pose a hazard to a rear-facing child in certain types of collisions. Consult your vehicle owner's manual before installing any rear-facing child restraint in front of a fold down armrest."*

This change to product instructions will be fully implemented in all applicable manuals by September 30, 2003. The new instructions should be considered retroactive to cover all earlier products.



**Evenflo**  
Titan 5  
Tribute 5  
Vanguard 5  
Victory 5

Source: Randy Kiser, Evenflo Director of Product Safety, Research and Development

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## Law Enforcement Corner



Griggs Wall  
Regional Coordinator, GTIPI

Once again the holidays are here. This means that thousands of motorists will hit the roadways of Georgia to visit family and friends. We, as traffic safety advocates, know that the increase of vehicles on the roads will increase the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities. Unfortunately, statistics have proven that the period from Thanksgiving to New Year's is the deadliest time of the year on our roads.

What can you do to help lower these numbers? State and local law enforcement across Georgia will be conducting two major enforcement waves during the holidays. The first wave of Click It or Ticket took place from November 17<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Operation Zero Tolerance is planned for December 19<sup>th</sup> through January 4<sup>th</sup>. Both of these high visibility enforcement campaigns focus in part on road checks. I encourage you to put your CPS Technician training to use by being a part of these checkpoints. Contact the law enforcement agencies in your community to find out when they plan to conduct their checkpoints. By assisting in checking for child safety seat misuse, you can give parents proper training on how to correctly use their CSS, along with distributing public information and educational material about child safety seat installation. For those of you who have never been a part of a checkpoint, this could be an opportunity for you to serve your community as well as provide an eye opening experience.



**The Reason We Care!**

Technicians interested in becoming CPST Instructors, contact the GTIPI office for an information packet.

### Mark Your Calendars

1. Tech Associations - Submit your articles for Tech Talk. Articles can include highlights of CPS activities, pictures, impact statements, funding ideas, etc. Share what works and what doesn't!

#### Deadlines for Submission:

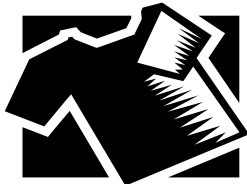
**February 13 - March, 2004 Issue**

**May 14 - June, 2004 Issue**

**August 13 - September, 2004 Issue**

2. National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week, February 8-14, 2004

3. Coming Soon - Georgia Child Passenger Safety Technician T-Shirts



### Available Online Resources

Georgia Teens Ride With P.R.I.D.E. Schedule  
2004 CPST Training Schedule & Application

Resource Materials Order Form

Saved-By-the-Belt Club Application

[www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org)

### Contact Information

Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute

1070 Culpepper Drive, Suite 300

Conyers, GA 30094

1-800-342-9819

678-413-4281

(FAX) 678-413-4293

*Funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety*