



GTIPI

GEORGIA TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION INSTITUTE

Tech Talk

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Walker County CPS Seat Week

Traci Napier Reece, CPST, Walker County Emergency Services

During the week of April 28, 2008, Walker County Emergency Services, in conjunction with the Walker County Health Department, Hutcheson Medical Center, Rossville Fire Department, and Georgia State Patrol Motor Carrier Compliance Division, conducted our 4th annual Child Passenger Safety Seat Week. During the week, we held inspection stations at four locations in the county.

We inspected 139 seats and found only 22 installed correctly (mostly booster seats). This resulted in a misuse rate of 84 percent, down from 86 percent last year.

While the misuse rate was reduced and the booster seat usage was increased, we are still striving to better educate our citizens. Overall, this year's event was another great success, and we were

pleased to welcome CPSTs from Catoosa County Health Department and Pickens County. We will begin planning our 2009 event soon and would invite any North Georgia CPSTs or agency to participate. If you are interested in participating next year (tentatively in May 2009) or for more information about previous events, contact Traci Reece by e-mail at t.reece@walkerga.us or 706-764-1900.



CPSTs from multiple agencies participated in Walker County's Child Passenger Safety Seat Week.



Walker County firefighters destroyed unusable car seats.

Can YOU Spot the Misuse?

photos from the Walker County check events



On left (top and bottom): infant seats forward-facing
On right: 6-month old forward-facing (faces obscured for anonymity)

We know you see misuse, too!

If you'd like to share your photos with other technicians, please e-mail photos to bbartlet@uga.edu for future issues of *Tech Talk*.

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CPST Code of Conduct

The National Child Passenger Safety Board recently adopted a “Code of Conduct & Commitment” for CPSTs. Let’s all reflect on these principles and re-commit to being our very best.

For the Families You Serve:

- ◆ Provide the highest level of service.
- ◆ Be polite and professional.
- ◆ Give good service regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, sex orientation, religion, age, disability, social or economic level.
- ◆ Listen to people. Acknowledge their strengths. Build on their abilities. Learn from them.
- ◆ Respect parents and their right to make decisions for their children.
- ◆ Be an example for others, as a safe and courteous driver.
- ◆ Always wear your seat belt and be a positive role model for children.

For the Community You Serve:

- ◆ Participate in community events, as your agency or organization is part of the community.
- ◆ Support occupant protection programs, like Click It Or Ticket, teen buckle-up challenges and important legislation.
- ◆ Make services available to everyone, especially those at risk, such as rural, non-English speaking, and low income communities.
- ◆ Work toward safe transportation through education, research and advocacy.
- ◆ Support policies for safe transportation for children and families.

As a Colleague:

- ◆ Work with colleagues. Trust and respect them. Share resources.
- ◆ Support colleagues in meeting their professional needs and development.
- ◆ Respect everyone’s personal dignity,

especially in resolving disagreements and what you may think are behavior problems.

- ◆ Be careful and respectful when talking personally and professionally about colleagues.

As a Leader:

- ◆ Develop and maintain your competence, such as your current certification status.
- ◆ Document your work according to agency, state and national standards.
- ◆ Follow all CPS certification program content in your own education and training programs.
- ◆ Correctly enter information into the CPS online system.
- ◆ Maintain the integrity and security of tests and assessments.
- ◆ Protect confidential information about families you assist.

- from www.cpsboard.org/conduct.htm

New Britax Frontier: 80-lb Harness

Mindy Sens, CPST Instructor

The Britax Frontier Harness-2-Booster is a new combination seat with a higher weight harness. The five-point harness has a weight capacity of 80 pounds, and it also serves as a belt-positioning booster up to 100 pounds. When used with the harness, the child must be at least 2 years old, weigh between 25 and 80 pounds, and stand 30 to 53 inches tall. The seat then converts to a high-back booster for children who weigh over 40 pounds and are between 42 and 60 inches tall. A child might also be too tall for the seat if his or her ears are above the top of the head restraint or the seat belt is positioned below the child’s shoulder. When converting to a booster, the consumer will have to remove a screw to adjust the head restraint.

The Frontier includes several features that are unique to this seat or to the Britax line. One of these is an “energy-absorbing tether.” When the seat is involved in a crash, the colored stitching

on the tether will be torn and one or both of the loops will have been pulled through the back side of the shell. If this is spotted, the seat can no longer be used and should be replaced. The Frontier also features “True Side Impact Protection” and a one-handed adjustable harness system.

Remember to consult the owner’s manual for instructions specific to this seat. Britax also states that, when using the harness, you must always use the tether for children weighing 65 to 80 pounds and use the HUGS chest pad. If using the LATCH system, always make sure to check the vehicle owner’s manual or the LATCH Manual for the weight limits on the lower anchors and tethers of the vehicle. Unless specified otherwise, assume 40 pounds to be the upper weight limit on the LATCH anchors.

In response to consumer feedback on the difficulty of installation, Britax has issued an addition to the owner’s manual

called “Tips for Challenging Installations.” In the original owner’s manual, the only option for lap-shoulder installation is the short belt path method. Included in the “Tips for Challenging Installations” is a second option: the longer belt path method, featured in the picture to the right.

This seat retails for approximately \$280. Visit www.britaxusa.com for more information and “Tips for Challenging Installations.”



**Britax Frontier (L)
and optional long belt path (R)**
Photos from britaxusa.com

DISCLAIMER: Trade and brand names are used only for information, and descriptions are those of the manufacturers. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences and College of Family & Consumer Sciences, does not guarantee nor warrant published standards on any product mentioned, neither does the use of a trade or brand name imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which may also be suitable.

One-Day Conference: CPS Issues in Georgia Hospitals

Beth Bartlett, CPST Instructor, and Sharon Conrad, CPST Instructor, DHR-Injury Prevention Section

The Georgia DHR / Division of Public Health / Injury Prevention Section, SafeKids Georgia, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta will host the Third Annual Conference on Child Passenger Safety Issues in Georgia Hospitals on Friday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year the conference will take place at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

(Office Park location).

Expect a day full of useful advice and discussions related to CPS. Topics include how to meet the challenges of safe travel for low-birth weight or premature babies and other newborns. Presenters will also discuss liability issues, angle tolerance testing/parameters and follow-up, developing a billing code for

car beds, AAP guidelines, and more.

All CPS advocates are welcome to attend, as well as hospital personnel who may or may not be certified CPSTs. There is no charge for the conference, and SafeKids Georgia is sponsoring lunch. Contact Sharon Conrad at smconrad@dhr.state.ga.us or 404-679-4803 for more information.

Seat Check Appointment Tips

Beth Bartlett, CPST Instructor, and Kristi Hill, CPST, DeKalb County Fire Rescue Department

There are many different ways to conduct seat checks – at enforcement roadblocks, large public check events, or drop-in inspection stations. Each has its own advantages and challenges. If you conduct seat checks by appointment, here are some strategies used at the DeKalb County Fire Rescue Department. I was so impressed when I heard about these practical ideas that I asked Kristi Hill to share how she handles seat check appointments.

From Kristi:

First, the department has a questionnaire that other staff (who are not CPSTs) fill out when taking a seat check appointment by phone. They collect the parent or caregiver's name, phone number, type of car seat, age and weight of the child, and year/make/model of the vehicle, and they set an appointment time.

After the person responsible for scheduling requests completes the form, I follow up with a phone call to give final confirmation and cover specific details I've listed below.

- ◆ I go online and review the type of vehicle they're bringing. Usually, I go to the Web site of the manufacturer and preview the information on safety features and familiarize myself with the locking mechanisms and other interesting characteristics relative to the seat: seat belts that detach from the ceiling, occupant weight detection systems for airbag deployment, fold-down rear seats, LATCH

connection points, etc. The Web sites have great colored pictures and distinct diagrams of the vehicle to preview.

- ◆ I call to confirm their appointment and ask them to bring a pool noodle (if applicable) because we do not provide them. If it's winter and hard to locate pool noodles, then I ask them to bring a bath-size towel.
- ◆ I ask them to bring the vehicle owner's manual and the car seat manual. If they have an older car and a misplaced manual, I advise them to contact the dealer for a replacement or see if it can be downloaded off the Internet.
- ◆ I remind them to bring **both** the carrier and the base for travel system-style car seats. Some families have arrived with only the base.
- ◆ If they are buying a second base, I remind them to be sure it is compatible with the specific make and model for the carrier.
- ◆ I ask them if the car seat is new or recycled. I then ask if they are sure they know the history of the seat (crashes, age of seat, etc.) If they tell me it's a secondhand seat, I inform them of the dangers and that we discourage it.
- ◆ I ask if they will be bringing more than one vehicle and whether anyone



Kristi Hill, DeKalb County Fire Rescue Department, examines a retractor during a seat check appointment. She already has an idea of what she'll find, though, because she's done her research.

else will be accompanying them (spouse, mother, etc.)

We designated a fire station convenient to our headquarters and have the parents meet us there for shelter from the outside elements. Appointments are scheduled on Wednesdays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. This is great because it allows you to carry on other duties for the rest of the day. If parents can't make that time, we have one other certified tech to meet with them before 4:00 pm on any other day by appointment as well. I provide brochures that describe seat belt laws and LATCH, along with age and weight requirements for convertible and booster seats.

Do you have seat check tips to share? E-mail them to bbartlet@uga.edu for future issues of Tech Talk.

GTIPI Training Dates

CPST 4-Day Training

August 25-28 Conyers
September 9-12 Cornelia

CPST CEU Workshop

August 7 Conyers
August 19 Forsyth

P.R.I.D.E. Instructor Certification

July 15 Ft. Oglethorpe
August 5 Elberton
September 9 Conyers
September 23 Dublin

P.R.I.D.E. Instructor Re-certification

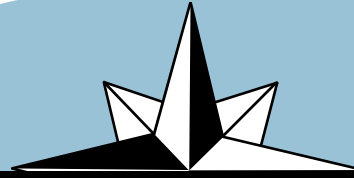
July 16 Ft. Oglethorpe
August 6 Elberton
September 10 Conyers
September 24 Dublin

P.R.I.D.E. Master Trainer

August 20-21 Conyers
(application required)

CarFit Technician

July 10 Conyers



Highway Safety Conference in Georgia

“Every Life Counts,” the 2008 Georgia Highway Safety Conference, will take place in Savannah from August 11-13, 2008, at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf & Spa Resort. The Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety is coordinating the conference, where highway safety peers can network, share successes, and learn from each other. A golf tournament just prior to the conference will benefit MADD Georgia.

The conference workshops will have four concentration tracks: Education, Engineering, Emergency Medical Services, and Enforcement. CEUs for CPST re-certification may be available for selected sessions.

For more information, including a preliminary list of workshop topics and how to register, go to www.gahighwaysafety.org/2008georgiahighwaysafetyconference



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*Need another copy of your CPST card? Go to www.safekids.org/certification and log in.
At the bottom of your profile page, click the link that states
“Click here for Your Wallet Card/Certificate.”*