



## Tech Talk

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### Saved by the Belt

Melba King, CPST Instructor

Statistics have shown us that most crashes occur within 25 miles of home. But for Bill Kirven of Loganville, it was much closer. On June 9, 2008, Bill was just following his regular routine. He was only about 2 miles from home when his normal day became anything but routine.

Here's his account of what happened: I was on my way to work. I crossed over a divided highway and paused briefly



halfway across to look for oncoming traffic before continuing. I was almost across when I was struck in my passenger door by another car. At impact, my first thought was that I must have hit the curb and blew out my tire. Nothing was making any sense to me because I had not seen any other cars on the highway. When my car came to rest, I was very dazed for a few moments. When I was able to get out of the car, I saw the other car behind mine. It



was a small black convertible coupe that I had not seen when I crossed the highway. The other driver and I were both able to walk away from the accident. Why? I have no doubt in my mind. We were both wearing our seatbelts and had airbags that deployed. My only injury was soreness on my left shoulder where the shoulder portion of my seatbelt was positioned.

Without seatbelts, I am convinced that neither of us would have walked away.



### Locating CPSTs with Special Needs Training

Mindy Sens, CPST Instructor

Having trouble locating a Child Passenger Safety Technician that has Special Needs Training? Riley Hospital's Automotive Safety Program has provided Safe Kids Worldwide with a list of CPSTs who have attended the training, "Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs." To search for a tech, go to [www.safekids.org/certification](http://www.safekids.org/certification) and click

on FIND A TECH. Be sure to check the "Special Needs" box at the bottom. If you have taken the course but do not see your contact information listed, please call Judith Talty with the Automotive Safety Program by phone at 800-755-0912 or email her at [jtalty@iupui.edu](mailto:jtalty@iupui.edu). Thanks to Kerry Chausmer of Safe Kids Worldwide for making this information available.

Postal Code From:  To:

Country

Certification Type

Languages

Arabic  ASL  Chinese

English  French

Italian  Korean

Polish  Russian

Tagalog  Unlabeled

Extra Training

Special Needs

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#### CPS Statistics

- Among children 4 to 8 years old, child restraint use has increased from **15% in 1999** to **60% in 2006**.
- Although much progress has been made among 4 to 8 years olds, **40%** are still not appropriately restrained.
- 99%** of children age 0 to 3 years were riding in child restraints

Partners for Child Passenger Safety - Fact and Trend Report - September 2007

GTIPI is funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

## The Renewal Class is Back!

Mindy Sens, CPST Instructor

Did you let your CPS Certification expire? Have you maintained your child passenger safety knowledge and hands-on skills? If so, this 8-hour Certification Renewal Class is for you!

This class is designed for lapsed technicians who wish to become nationally certified as a CPST again. This does NOT serve as an update/refresh class. You must have maintained your child passenger safety knowledge and your hands-on skills but have - for one reason or another - allowed your certification to expire. It is expected that you have stayed involved in CPS programs and activities and have kept up with changes in the field. Attending other CPS classes and reading technical updates will have kept you up to date. By continuously working with certified technicians, your

installation skills should be current.

The class consists of classroom lecture and Technical Skills evaluations which include four "Select and Install" scenarios and three "Misuse" scenarios. Two attempts are allowed to successfully complete all seven technical skills sce-



narios. Students must also pass a written test with a minimum score of 84%.

After successfully completing this class, students will again be able to provide both individual and group CPS education.

The fee for this class is \$75 payable to Safe Kids Worldwide through their online system. The fee must be paid prior to the day of the class. To register for this class, please visit our website at [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org), click on "Training Calendar" and choose "Renewal".

### Renewal Class Schedule

November 6, 2008

February 26, 2009

June 4, 2009

August 6, 2009

Note: All will be held at GTIPI

## GTIPI Now Offering Online Workshops for CPS & P.R.I.D.E

Mindy Sens, CPST Instructor & P.R.I.D.E. Instructor and Katrina Pittman, CPST & Parent-Youth Outreach Specialist

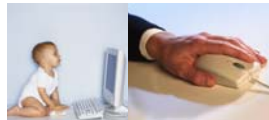


Keeping your certification(s) current is important because you want to educate your community on the latest CPS and P.R.I.D.E information available. GTIPI is now making it easier than ever to stay current!

For all CPSTs, we will be offering online CEU workshops worth three credit hours entitled: New Seats, Finding LATCH, and Using LATCH. Please note that this is the same class as our in-person 2008 CEU Workshops. Beginning October they will be available online. In order to receive credit for the

CEU class, you must be present for the entire course and score at least 80% on all three post quizzes and required assignments.

P.R.I.D.E. Instructor Re-Certification classes will also be offered online.



Technicians may register for any of these workshops by going to our website: [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute at 800-342-9819.

### CPST Online CEU's

Class begins at 9:30 am on:

October 29

April 15

July 15

### P.R.I.D.E. Online Re-Certification

October 28

November 13

December 16

January 29

April 7

May 21

July 14

August 20

## School Bus Class to be Offered at GTIPI

Mindy Sens and Sharon Conrad, CPST Instructors

Do you drive, aid or assist in transporting children to and from school on a school bus? NHTSA's 8-hour Child Passenger Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses National Training provides important CPS information to those who transport preschool age children and infants on a school bus. You do not have to

be a CPS Technician to attend the class. CEU hours for CPS Technicians will be available.

Please contact Sharon Conrad at 404-679-4803 with any additional questions or to register for the class.



### Class Dates

December 5

February 24

July 14

# Are You Checking for Vehicle Recalls?

Mary Ann Robinson, CPS Instructor



It is essential that CPS Technicians remember to always check the Child Restraint Recall List. Many technicians use the recall list when they inspect a child safety seat but most fail to check the list for vehicle safety defects. This addition to the list is somewhat new but it is a critical point to remember when checking a seat. Both the Safety Belt Safe list located at [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org) and The University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center list at [www.hsrrc.unc.edu](http://www.hsrrc.unc.edu) have added this fea-

ture to their recall lists. This new addition covers vehicle manufacturer recalls that relate to child restraint performance.

To obtain this information from the NHTSA recall list, a separate search for child safety seats and vehicles must be done. This information is available at [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Remember to report any suspected child restraint or vehicle safety defects to the NHTSA Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 or [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov). There is a new feature that parents/caregivers can use to register their child safety seat on [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov). Once

registered, a text message will be sent if there is a recall on their seat.

It is important to encourage the parent/caregiver to complete and mail the registration card for the child safety seat or go online to the seat manufacturer for quick notification in the event of a recall or safety notification. The vehicle is automatically registered with the manufacturer when it is purchased. Contact information is updated by the state as ownership on the vehicle changes.



# Higher Weight Harnesses

Melba King, CPST Instructor

An ever increasing challenge for parents and caregivers today is transporting children of higher weights. When many car seats are rated only to 40 pounds, it is tempting to allow children to ride in booster seats or in seatbelts alone before they are behaviorally or physically mature enough to do so. The job of CPS technicians is to educate par-

ents about best practice recommendations which includes transporting children in full harnesses as long as possible.

The good news is there are several options for children who exceed their car seat's weight recommendation but still need to be secured snugly in a harness system. Please visit [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) for a current list of higher weight harness

seats available on the market. Caregivers should always be reminded to read their instruction manual for height and weight limits as this will vary for each child safety seat.



# Small & Premature Newborns

Mindy Sens, CPST Instructor

With the growing number of small and premature infants being born, it can be difficult to find the appropriate child safety seat for these children. The majority of infant seats start at 5 pounds and often the harness slots are positioned too high for the small newborn.

Caregivers should look for seats with weights that begin at birth or 4 pounds and harness positions that are 8 inches or less from the seat bottom. There are also some child safety seats that are made with padded inserts for head support and/or full body support. If the pads are removable, it is important to read the manufacturer's instructions as to the weight in which they should be removed.

When positioning the small or premature newborn in the child safety seat,

placing rolled towels, as illustrated to the right, can provide added support for the newborn's head and full body. Remember, the use of non-regulated products to achieve proper fit is never recommended.

Premature infants may face issues that go beyond just finding a lower weight child safety seat. If a premature infant cannot pass an angle tolerance test or has other health issues that prevent him or her from riding in a conventional lower weight child safety seat, they may require a car bed. A car bed allows the child to be



transported lying down. This prevents any chance of the child's airway from being compromised, or affecting any pre-existing medical conditions.

See the charts below for a list of available options.

Please visit [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) and [www.saferidenews.com](http://www.saferidenews.com) for more information.

INFANT SEAT	WEIGHT
Britax Companion	4 - 22 lbs
Chicco KeyFit 30	4 - 30 lbs
Compass	4 - 22 lbs
Graco Assura	Birth - 22 lbs
Orbit Infant Seat	Birth - 22 lbs
CAR BEDS	WEIGHT
Angel Guard	Birth - 9 lbs
Cosco Dream Ride	5 - 20 lbs



**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.

# GTIPI Training Dates

Please check our website for a complete list of opportunities

## CPST 4-Day Training

October 7-10	Columbus*
October 21-24	Conyers
November 18-21	Savannah
December 9-12	Conyers

## CPST Renewal Class

November 6	Conyers
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## CPST CEU Workshop

November 12	Tifton
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## NEW CPST Online CEU Workshop

October 29	July 15
April 15	

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

October 14	Conyers
October 21	Dalton (9am)
November 18	Conyers
December 2	Conyers

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

October 15	Conyers
November 19	Conyers
December 3	Conyers

## NEW P.R.I.D.E. Online Workshop

October 28	December 16
November 13	

\* Class is Full



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has chosen the week of September 21-27, 2008 as National Child Passenger Safety Week. The focus of this year's efforts is to remind parents and caregivers of the importance of transporting their children in child safety seats and booster seats that are appropriate for the child's size and age. The child safety seats must also be installed properly in the vehicle.



## Seat Check Saturday September 20, 2008



National Seat Check Saturday is September 20, 2008. Child safety seat check events will be held to educate parents on issues regarding their child's seats. The goal is to make sure that all children are secured properly. Technicians will be emphasizing the importance of placing children in the back seat whenever possible. Remember - best practice suggests children 13 and younger ride in the back.

*Get your community involved!*



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*Need another copy of your CPST card? Go to [www.safekids.org/certification](http://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."*