



The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

GTIPI

**GEORGIA TRAFFIC INJURY
PREVENTION INSTITUTE**

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety is a full partner in this program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIAN TRAINING AND FREE SEAT
CHECK EVENT IN BYRON, GEORGIA**

Does your child ride in a car seat? Car seat or “child safety seat” use has risen to more than 89% in Georgia. Still, experts say over 80% of all child safety seats are being used incorrectly. Additionally, each child safety seat checked by trained Child Passenger Safety Technicians has an average of three errors that could result in injury or death to a child if the vehicle is involved in a crash. For parents in Byron and Peach County, help for parents is on the way.

The University of Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute (GTIPI), grant-funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, will conduct a Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Training at the Byron Municipal Complex in Byron, Georgia on March 16-19, 2011. The Peach County Fire Department, Byron Fire Department, and Bryon Police Department, have partnered to host the course with UGA. Attendees will include personnel from the Georgia State Patrol, law enforcement, Fire and EMS departments, and health departments.

Attendees of the four-day course will learn how to educate parents on correct use and installation of child safety seats. The course is taught by certified instructors using a standardized curriculum developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Following the training course, certified technicians will be able to continue providing child passenger safety efforts in their local communities. Training is just the beginning

“Among children ages 4 to 12 years old, motor vehicle crash injuries continue to be the leading cause of death nationally and in Georgia,” says Lt. Josh Riley of Byron Fire Department.

Georgia's booster seat law, passed in 2000, requires all children under the age of six to be in a child safety seat appropriate for their age and weight.

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Sgt. Jeffrey Oliver at Peach County Fire Department recommends parents keep kids in a booster seat until they reach four feet and nine inches tall, and that they ride in the back seat until age 13. "Use of booster seats by children 4 to 10 years old will significantly increase their chances of surviving," Sgt. Oliver said.

Help ensure your child's safety by taking advantage of the child safety seat check event that will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Peach County Fire Department Station #1 located at 6711 Peach Parkway in Byron following the CPS Technician training.

"The check is free of charge and will take about 30 minutes," says Sgt. Bryan Hunter of Byron Police Department. "That's time well spent for peace of mind," Sgt. Hunter says. "You'll get the right information to keep your child safe."

For more information about the seat check event, you can contact the following:

Peach County Fire Department - Sgt. Jeffrey Oliver at 478-825-1082

Byron Fire Department – Lt. Josh Riley at 478-956-3611

Byron Police Department – Sgt Bryan Hunter at 478-956-2880

For more information on traffic safety, car seat installation tips, and child passenger safety resources, visit The University of Georgia's Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute's website at www.ridesafegeorgia.org.