



# AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

At Riley Hospital for Children, Indiana University School of Medicine

## Seat Belt Entanglement: A Potential Hazard

Seat belt entanglement can occur when a child accesses the shoulder portion of a seat belt with a switchable retractor and inadvertently switches the retractor to locking mode. There have been times when a child has switched the retractor to locking mode while the shoulder belt was around their neck, causing the risk of strangulation. These incidents have prompted the CPS community to take a closer look at the possibility of seat belt entanglement. According to the 2009 edition of the LATCH Manual, this can occur with children restrained in child restraints installed with LATCH, belt positioning booster seats, or seat belts alone. It is also stated that this can also occur when a child is seated next to a seating position with an unused lap-shoulder belt with a switchable retractor.

This is considered to be primarily a behavioral issue and caregivers should be educated to monitor their children and teach them not to play with the seat belts. However, child passenger safety technicians should also educate the caregivers to evaluate all unused seat belts that are within reach of the child. The 2009 LATCH Manual makes the following recommendations:

- For child restraints installed with LATCH you should consider buckling shoulder belts with switchable retractors prior to installation, providing that this does not interfere with the installation with the lower anchors and it is allowed

by the child restraint and vehicle manufacturers' instructions.

- For unused shoulder belts with switchable retractors in adjacent seating positions you should consider buckling the seat belts and switching the retractors to locking mode.
- For children riding in belt positioning booster seats with switchable retractors you should consider switching the retractor to locking mode if allowed by the child restraint and vehicle manufacturers' instructions.

Remember to always follow the child restraint and vehicle manufacturers' instructions. The 2009 LATCH Manual serves as a great resource, providing information on this topic, as well as some vehicle and child restraint manufacturer recommendations.

The NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program curriculum is currently being revised to address this issue; however, a date when these revisions are expected to be complete has not been determined.

[Information for this article was obtained from the 2009 LATCH Manual, the National Child Safety Board Tech Update, and NHTSA.gov.]

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# Making a Difference

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**Terry Cooper, CPST at St. Mary's Hospital permanent fitting station submitted the following story:**

I received a frantic phone call today from a grandmother who lives in Evansville, Indiana. She explained that tomorrow night (December 22<sup>nd</sup>) at midnight she was going to be picking up her 3 year old grandson, along with his Mom and Dad at the airport in Indianapolis. They were flying in from Lithuania and she had not seen them in a year. Her dilemma was that she bought a new car seat and after looking at the instructions with her husband who along with her is a retired school teacher, they decided they needed help with the installation. After calling the Indiana State Police post they were referred to St. Mary's Car Seat Hotline. She explained on the phone that the seat was still in the box and that they had no idea what to do next. I reassured her and asked her if she could be at St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children entrance in an hour. I told her we'd get the seat out of the box when she got here. She was agreeable.

We installed the seat in about 30 minutes from assembly to installation. They were very grateful and appreciative. The grandfather said he was a teacher in the past and was very mechanically inclined but thought there was no way he could have done it without help. It was such a pleasure to help someone who took the time to be sure their grandchild was protected in the car. It was also very rewarding to make a difference!

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## Tech Update

The child passenger safety technician (CPST) recertification rate is still increasing! Indiana's recertification rate for calendar year 2009 is over 60 percent. This is more than a 20 percent increase from the previous year. This increase is also being seen across the nation with a national CPST recertification rate of 55 percent.

The Automotive Safety Program wants to thank all of the technicians who have recertified. Please contact Jennifer Hacker at 1-800-KID-N-CAR if you have any questions about the recertification process.

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## New ASP Staff Member

Welcome to the newest member of our staff, Charles "Chuck" Akerland. He is our new Administrative Secretary. He most recently worked for a national company that provides food services for the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium. Prior to that he was a Church Administrator in Indianapolis.

Chuck is originally from the east coast where he worked for a theatrical producing company in New York City. He is pleased to join the staff of the Automotive Safety Program. Please join us in welcoming Chuck the next time that you phone or visit our office.

## Plans Underway for 2010 Annual Refresher Courses

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The Automotive Safety Program looks forward to seeing you again at one of our annual child passenger safety (CPS) refresher courses this summer. The refresher course is designed to help Indiana's child passenger safety technicians and instructors stay current with the most up to date information in the child passenger safety field, while reviewing CPS concepts. The one day course will include classroom training and a hands-on session that will provide technicians with an opportunity to demonstrate technical skills and to complete their five car seat checks required for recertification. Participants at the refresher course will also earn continuing education units (CEU) required for recertification.

In an effort to be accessible to as many technicians as possible the courses have been scheduled in various regions of the state and have been confirmed for the following locations and dates:

- White County Memorial Hospital, Monticello, June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Floyd Memorial Hospital, New Albany, July 30<sup>th</sup>
- Brownsburg Fire Territory, Brownsburg, August 13<sup>th</sup>
- St. Joseph Township Fire Department, Ft. Wayne, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
(Sponsored by Safe Kids Allen County)

Registration forms will be mailed to all certified child passenger safety technicians and instructors in Indiana by the middle of April.

## New AAP Website

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Check out [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org), the new American Academy of Pediatrics website specifically for parents. The [2010 Car Safety Seat Product Listing](#) can be found on this website. This resource provides a list of restraint types, manufacturers, model names, harness types, weight and height requirements, as well as prices.

## Follow Us On-Line

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The Automotive Safety Program is now on Facebook!

Click the logo to become a fan.



Follow us on twitter [@KidNCar](#)

or by clicking below.



## New Products

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### Britax Frontier 85 Combination Seat

- Replaces the original Frontier
- Child must be a minimum 2 years of age
- Harness mode fits children 25-85 pounds and 30-57” height
- Quick-Adjust head restraint
- No rethread harness
- Ten harness height positions
- Three crotch buckle positions
- Booster mode fits children 40-120 pounds and 42-65” height
- Retail price \$279.99
- [www.britaxusa.com](http://www.britaxusa.com)



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### Graco Snugride 35 Infant Seat

- Fits infants 5-35 pounds
- Maximum height 32”
- Built in lock-off
- Front adjust harness
- Recline level indicator
- Retail price \$149.99 - \$179.99
- [www.gracobaby.com](http://www.gracobaby.com)



## Recalls

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**Dorel** - Model: Safety 1<sup>st</sup>, Cosco, Disney, & Eddie Bauer Infant Seats that were sold with Travel Systems.  
The stroller portion of the travel system is not affected by this recall.

- Manufactured January 6, 2008 through April 6, 2009
  - ◇ **Safety 1<sup>st</sup>** - 22-057 DBY, 22-085 DWA, 22-057 CLN, 22-057 HRT, 22-322 HRR, 22-322 PTK, 22-057 LPH, 22-085 LYN, 22-322 KDL, 22-322 LXI, 22-322OLY, 22-322PRS, 22-322 MAI, 22-325 COB, 22-095 RBK, 22-380 LGA, 22-380 MSA, 22-627 WAV, 22-325 PAC
  - ◇ **Cosco** - 22-300 FZN, 22-300 OSF, 22-300 CSF, 22-300 JJV, 22-300 THD, 22-300 TWD
  - ◇ **Disney** - 22-627 AWF, 22-355 LBF, 22-305 NAB, 22-305 PPH, 22-355 PWK
  - ◇ **Eddie Bauer** - 22-627 CGT, 22-627 FRK, 22-627 SNW, 22-627 WPR, 22-627KGS, 22-655BYTE
- The child restraint handle to the seat can loosen and come off, posing a fall hazard to infants. The seat’s safety as a child restraint is not affected.
- Contact Dorel Juvenile Group at (866) 762-3316 for a repair kit.

## Recalls (cont')

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**Dorel** - Model: Cosco Alpha Omega, Cosco Hi Back, Cosco Touriva, Eddie Bauer Hi Back, Eddie Bauer Touriva

- Manufactured January 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001
  - ◇ **Cosco Alpha Omega** – 02332, 02531, 02533, 02537, 02555
  - ◇ **Cosco Hi Back** – 02409, 02442, 02443, 02445, 02448, 02449, 02450, 02480, 02495
  - ◇ **Cosco Touriva** – 02014, 02015, 02019, 02084, 02094, 02114, 02504, 02514, 02518, 02519, 02524, 02584, 02803, 02806, 02821, 02825, 02935, 93084, 93094, 93514
  - ◇ **Eddie Bauer Hi Back** – 02849 and 02880
  - ◇ **Eddie Bauer Touriva** – 02870, 02871, 02875
- The tether webbing fails to conform to the abrasion requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 213, "Child Restraint Systems." If the webbing is exposed to a significant amount of abrasion, it could degrade. If the webbing degrades more than permitted by the standard, it may not provide sufficient protection to a child in a crash, increasing the risk of injury to the child.
- Contact Dorel Juvenile Group at (866) 690-2539 for a repair kit.

**Dorel** - Model: Cosco Hi Back and Cosco Touriva

- Manufactured March 15, 2002 to August 1, 2002
  - ◇ **Cosco Hi Back** – 02442CNG, 02442DNP, 02442JUB, 02443PRI, 02448BNG, 02848BNG, 93443PRI, 93514FSM
  - ◇ **Cosco Touriva** – 02514FSM, 02519OXF, 02524AAR, 22100TTD, 93446FSM, 93504BHO
- These child restraint systems with 6 panel Wellington webbing harnesses fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 213, "Child Restraint Systems." The UV stabilizer used in the webbing may not adequately protect it from deterioration by ultraviolet rays.
- Contact Dorel Juvenile Group at (866) 690-2539 for a repair kit.

**Dorel** - Model: Maxi-Cosi Mico

- Manufactured February 18, 2008 through June 28, 2008
  - ◇ **Maxi-Cosi Mico** – 22-371 HFL, JUC, LMD, PNG, and ORE; 22-372 TTH; and Maxi-Cosi Mico infant child restraint system - base only – 22-515 BLK
- Interference between the mounting bracket and the base caused by warping of the base or inadequate mating between the shell and the base mounting bracket can result in difficulty attaching or detaching the shell from the base.
- Contact Dorel Juvenile Group at (877) 657-9546 for a repair kit.

# Mark Your Calendar

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## **NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician Training**

April 29-30 & May 6-7, 2010 – Boswell Fire Department, Boswell, IN

Cost - \$75.00

Contact – Hollie Lambert, 574.523.2112

[hlambert@elkhartcountyhealth.org](mailto:hlambert@elkhartcountyhealth.org)

May 25 - May 28, 2010 – Cancer Care Center, New Albany, IN

Cost - \$75.00

Contact – Sharon Rengers, 502.629.7337

[sharon.rengers@nortonhealthcare.org](mailto:sharon.rengers@nortonhealthcare.org)

June 23 - June 26, 2010 – LaPorte First Church of God, LaPorte, IN

Cost - \$75.00

Contact – Susan McLain, 219.363.6440

[buckleup@verizon.net](mailto:buckleup@verizon.net)

## **Child Passenger Safety Technician Refresher Course**

See article on page 3 for details.

## **Lifesavers Conference**

April 11 - April 13, 2010

Philadelphia Convention Center – Philadelphia, PA

National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities

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

## **Indiana Injury Prevention Conference and 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Safety Advocate Awards**

May 13-14, 2010

University Place Conference Center and Hotel –

Indianapolis, IN

<http://www.preventinjury.org/trainingOpp.asp>

## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Kidz In Motion Conference**

August 26-28, 2010

The Omni Fort Worth Hotel – Fort Worth, TX

National Conference Dedicated to Child Passenger Safety Professionals

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

## **CPS Week**

September 19-25, 2010

## **National Seat Check Saturday**

September 25, 2010

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A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION, NEWS AND OPINIONS ON AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY

The Automotive Safety Program  
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[www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org)

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