

**Milledgeville Police Department**

*Office of Public Relations  
Public Information Officer  
Felicia Cummings*

**Contact Information**

*PIO F. Cummings  
(478) 414-4012 office  
(478) 456-0048 work cell*



**NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018

**Division:** Specialized Patrol

**Officers prep for occupant protection & car seat check event**

Occupant protection is an important topic for officers at the Milledgeville Police Department. In an effort to educate the public on occupant protection, MPD's Specialized Patrol Unit (SPU) is holding a Child Car Seat Safety Check. The event is slated for Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Milledgeville Police Department on 125 West McIntosh Street, from 8 a.m. – noon, during the Deep Roots Festival.

All car seat check events are part of SPU's C.A.R.E. initiative. C.A.R.E. stands for Child and Restraint Education. It is a program offered by SPU that consists of car seat safety classes, inspection and replacement education that is presented to the community, school system and organizations throughout Milledgeville.

All MPD officers who will take part in the car seat safety check are certified and have undergone training classes to learn how to properly install seats and how to determine what size seats should be used for each child. Kids also receive certificates from MPD officers, pledging to always wear their seat belt.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), car seats and boosters provide protection for infants and children in a crash, yet car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13. Officials with the the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) say car crashes are the number one killer of people in every age group from 1-34. GOHS adds that seatbelt use remains a serious safety concern as two out of every three fatalities in Georgia involve unsecured occupants.

For more information about this event call the Milledgeville Police Department at 478-414-4000. For more information on finding the right car seat, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats>.

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