

**Milledgeville Police Department**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** Monday, Sept. 10, 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 partnering with the Milledgeville Exchange Club for a Child Car Seat Safety Check. The event is slated for Saturday, Sept. 15 at Wal-Mart Supercenter, 2592 North Columbia Street, between 8 a.m. and noon.

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.

"A properly sized and installed car seat is critical to ensuring the safety of children in the event of a traffic accident. As we are proactive in enforcing child safety seat law, we also want to be proactive in assisting people with obtaining and installing this important part of occupant safety," said Lt. Reenae Gray, head supervisor for the Specialized Patrol Unit.

According to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) 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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