

## **Consumer Alert: Is your child's booster seat doing its job?**

Every year approximately 350 children, ages 4-7 die in car accidents in the United States. An additional 50,000 are injured. As a parent and long time member of the Coral Springs community, I am concerned about a recent report issued by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety finding that a number of child booster seats are unsafe. Surprisingly, thirteen of the forty-one booster seat models tested were subject to recall. Some of the more recent booster seat recalls include:

- Compass B505 or B510
- Cosco/Dorel Traveler
- Alpha Omega
- (Eddie Bauer) Summit
- Cosco Highback Booster
- Evenflo Big Kid Confidence
- Evenflo Chase Comfort Touch and Evenflo Generations
- Safety Angel Ride Ryte (not the high back version)
- Safety 1<sup>st</sup>/ Dorel (Eddie Bauer)
- Prospect and Intera
- Graco CarGo Zephyr

Parents and those transporting children should also be aware of the Florida Restraint Law, which states that all children 5 years of age or younger must be properly restrained no matter where they are seated in the vehicle. Children through the age of 3 must be secured in a separate carrier or manufacturer's integrated safety seat.

Booster seats are recommended by child safety experts and product manufacturers for children who are under the age of eight and over 40 pounds. There is convincing evidence that boosters, used with lap/shoulder belts, offer the safest way for children to ride in cars.

To keep up to date on the latest booster seat recalls along with the latest child passenger safety tips visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/). You can also find useful consumer information on the Weinstein Law Firm website. [www.weinstein-law.com](http://www.weinstein-law.com). The trauma brought about by a child restraint injury is obviously immeasurable. By taking the necessary precautions, you can help keep your child safe. If you have any questions about this topic, please feel free to contact me.

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