

Three-year-old Survives Rollover Crash

Four Weeks After CPS Technicians Instructed Mom on Proper Car Seat Installation

Portland, Maine—On the morning of January 15, 2016, a mother and her 3-year-old daughter were traveling on I-295 when another driver shifted into the same lane near Tuckeys Bridge and forced the mother into the guardrail, causing the car to overturn. The child was snugly secured in her car seat in the rear seat behind the mom and sustained slight injuries, while the mother sprained her wrist and received some bruises.

How did this potentially tragic crash become a good news story? Just four weeks earlier, the family attended a Safe Kids Maine car seat inspection stations. The car seat was recalled because of a defect in the buckle, specifically that it would get stuck after food and drinks leaked onto it.

The technician helped to correct the defect on the car seat by attaching the replacement buckle. In January 2016, Safe Kids Maine presented the family with a new car seat.

Immediately following the crash, mother Andrea Goodwin recalled her thoughts when she was sideways in the vehicle following the crash:

“Smelling burnt airbag powder and hearing my daughter’s cries in the background, all I could think was this was the end of our short life together. Then I remembered how just 4 weeks before I had attended a car seat safety check where the wonderful volunteers replaced a recalled buckle on my daughter’s car seat and properly installed her seat from rear facing to forward facing. This no doubt is what saved my daughter’s life and left her with only a few bruises.

“I will forever be grateful for these volunteers who took the time to properly install my daughters car seat, as if it was not for me attending this car seat check a few weeks earlier, my daughter might not have survived. I wish that all parents would take the 20 minutes to stop by one of these car seat checks and ensure their car seats are properly installed.”

For more information contact:

Suzanne Grace, Safe Kids Maine, Coalition Coordinator, sgrace@tallpinesafety.org



The crash scene.



Later, Safe Kids Maine presented Mom and child with a new car seat. From left, aunt Crystal Goodwin, niece Janiah, grandmother Susan Goodwin, and Janiah’s Mom Andrea Goodwin. At right is Suzanne Grace, Safe Kids Maine coordinator.