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## Press Release

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### **THE NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOARD NAMES NORTH CAROLINA INJURY PREVENTION SPECIALIST CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**

Charlotte, NC - Allan Buchanan, an Injury Prevention Specialist for the North Carolina Department of Insurance and State Fire Marshal's Office was named "2017 National Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year" by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#) (NCPSB). The Board and AAA recognized Mr. Buchanan, who has worked in the field of child passenger safety for over 20 years, for his dedication during the annual Lifesavers Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, a national highway safety conference aimed to educate public health, injury prevention, law enforcement and traffic safety advocates.

Buchanan is considered one of North Carolina's pioneers of child passenger safety. He began his work in occupant protection for children as a firefighter/EMT for the Henderson Fire Department. After becoming a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) in October of 2000, he was certified as an instructor in 2001 and began the county's *Buckle Up* program and Safe Kids Coalition which both remain active. After transitioning to the state's Department of Insurance/Fire Marshal's Office in 2004 as one of the three regional Injury Prevention Specialists, Buchanan's expanded role allowed him to train new technicians across the state and establish new Safe Kids coalitions.

"Allan advocates that our state continues to hold a yearly child passenger safety conference where techs can come to keep themselves current on new technology," said Suzanne Cash LeDoyen, a Buchanan colleague. "I honestly cannot think of anyone more technically current than Allan. One of the many things Allan is known for is his ability to mentor numerous technicians and instructors throughout our state

this year. He makes it a priority that he is available and accessible. He is also extremely humble; he works well and treats every student with respect. He also has the ability to adapt his teaching style to a variety of students with different learning styles; he goes above and beyond in every class.”

In addition to the support of his agency, Buchanan credits North Carolina’s success in this injury prevention area to the vital technical support and resources provided by the Governor’s Highway Safety Program and the University of North Carolina’s Highway Safety Research Center.

At the national level, Buchanan represented the Fire/Emergency Responder sector on the NCPSB from 2010-2015, then served as the Chairman of the Board from 2013-2014. In 2016, he became the U.S. Advocate for BubbleBum, a booster seat manufacturer, and now travels throughout the country to educate the CPS community about this innovative product.

Buchanan has also had the opportunity to educate technicians and instructors internationally; in 2015 he traveled to Doha and Abu Dhabi with Safe Kids Worldwide. Buchanan said, “I consider this a highlight of my career, having the opportunity to impact lives in places I never imagined I would visit was an unbelievable experience.”

He has earned the respect of thousands of technicians he has mentored across the state of North Carolina, as well as child safety advocates across the nation due to his expertise, professionalism and selfless nature.

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