

We don't want you to miss out on the latest edition of the **CPS Express!**
Please add cps.certification@safekids.org to your address book or safe list today.

When was the last time you checked the information in your CPS online profile?
[Please do it now!](#) This newsletter is available as a [PDF](#)

CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



March 2015

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

CPST Month: May 2015

It's back! This May is the second annual CPST Month to promote CPS Certification. With a goal of 100 Certification Courses, we will certify hundreds of new technicians to serve their communities.

What does it mean for you, an Instructor? If you're a Lead Instructor, please consider putting on a certification course in May. In appreciation, Safe Kids will send out limited edition CPST Month 2015 pins to May lead instructors to share with their teaching team. But wait! That's not all! One certification course will be randomly selected as a winner and each instructor on the course roster will be sent a CPST Instructor polo shirt, courtesy of KS Image Solutions.

You live it every time you talk with a parent, help a grandparent or check a car seat. The more classes that are taught, the more people that become certified, the more lives we save.

PROUD TO BE A
CPST
2015

Michigan Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year Announced

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Programs (OHSP) is pleased to announce that Holly Alway, Injury Prevention Coordinator for Mercy Health Systems in Muskegon, Michigan, was selected as the first [Michigan Child Passenger Safety Technician \(CPST\) of the Year for 2014](#).

The inaugural year of the program will honor Alway, along with four other CPSTs, during a training event hosted by the OHSP in March. Alway will receive a scholarship to attend the national traffic safety conference of her choosing while all honorees will receive a scholarship for their next CPST recertification fee. Alyson Kechkaylo, Michigan CPS coordinator, developed the program to recognize technicians at the state level.

"We are so fortunate to have more than 900 dedicated technicians in Michigan and this award is our chance to thank those who go above and beyond. The five honorees represent law enforcement, engineering, and injury prevention, all important partners in child passenger safety," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director.

Alway will be honored along with runner-up Trooper Keith Disselkoe of the Michigan State Police Lakeview Post and honorable mention winners: Trooper Ashley Simpson from the Michigan State Police Alpena Post, Kimberly Blankenship from Chrysler, and Deputy Jessica Wion from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office.

Always has been a technician for more than a decade and is the Safe Kids West Michigan coalition coordinator. She actively recruits people as technicians and ensures a local certification class is offered every other year. After people complete their certification, she maintains contact to ensure they can be active techs and supports opportunities and resources for the recertification process as well as provides sign offs as a technician proxy.

In addition to supporting CPSTs and checking seats, she has developed hospital policies governing the safe transport of children discharged from the hospital and facilitated efforts to train 10 hospital employees as CPSTs.

The Michigan OHSP looks forward to continued success with this recognition program designed to honor excellence within the CPST community.

Submitted by Alyson Kechkaylo, Michigan CPS coordinator (Lansing, MI)

Ready, Set, Pick Up Your Gift!

If you are attending [Lifesavers](#) this month, stop by the certification booth (part of Safe Kids Worldwide) in the exhibit hall. Show us your valid CPST wallet card (a print out or an image on your phone or tablet) and pick up a thank you gift from Team Cert.

Kerry, Kim and Jami will be available to answer any questions you have, help you log into your online profile or just chat. We appreciate how hard you work in your communities!

Need a wallet card? Here's [how to print one up](#).

Have card, will travel: Take a photo or do a screenshot on your phone, you will always have it with you.



New Braking Systems: Good Reason For Everyone To Buckle Up

NHTSA is recommending that two braking systems be added by vehicle manufacturers to reduce injuries and fatalities. They are crash imminent braking (CIB) and dynamic brake support (DBS). Crash Imminent Braking (CIB) and Dynamic Brake Support (DBS) are specifically designed to help drivers avoid, or mitigate the severity of, rear-end crashes. CIB systems provide automatic braking when forward-looking sensors indicate that a crash is imminent and the driver has not braked, whereas DBS systems provide supplemental braking when sensors determine that driver-applied braking is insufficient to avoid an imminent crash. This technology will be added to the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). The program is designed to help consumers make better choices about choosing safer cars.

“According to NHTSA data, one-third of all police-reported crashes in 2013 involved a rear-end collision with another vehicle at the start of the crash. The agency also found that a large number of drivers involved in rear-end crashes either did not apply the brakes at all or did not apply the brakes fully prior to the crash. Crash imminent braking and dynamic brake support systems can intervene by automatically applying the vehicle's brakes or supplementing the driver's braking effort to mitigate the severity of the crash or to avoid it altogether.” These features are already available in some high-end cars.

- Read complete [press release](#)
- View NHTSA's [Automatic Emergency Braking System Research Report](#) released in August 2014.

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, Florida)

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 4/2014) - No edits or updates.

Child Passenger Safety Technician [Code of Conduct](#)

PROGRAM REMINDER

Recertification

- [Recertification Details](#)
- [Recertification FAQ](#)

You may recertify up to four months before your certification expiration date without losing any time.

Avoid problems - don't delay!

Basic Recertification Requirements and Deadlines

[Five seat checks](#) approved by a certified instructor (you may use the technician proxy option). You can do the checks at any time during your certification cycle as long as they are entered online and a certified instructor approves them before your recertification date.

[Community education](#) (choose one):

- Participation in at least one two-hour checkup event with at least one other CPS technician using any standardized checklist to provide documentation, if needed.
- Provide at least four hours of community education. Examples include making presentations to parents, educators, kids, organizations (such as PTAs or law enforcement), or other stakeholders who are not technicians.

A minimum of six hours of [CPS technical continuing education units](#) (CEUs) earned and reported during a current two-year certification cycle.

- You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required
- Because your certification cycle stays the same, any CEUs obtained after you recertify but before the first day of your new certification cycle may not be applied to the new cycle
- You can record CEUs at any time during your certification cycle, but they must fit into one of the five approved categories and meet content requirements.

[Register and pay](#) the recertification fee before your certification expiration date. You can register up to four months in advance of your certification expiration date. You will NOT lose any time - your dates stay the same.

- To get to the payment screen, you must have:
 - Completed all five seat checks (entered and CPSTI approved)
 - Entered at least six CEUs
 - Entered your community event information
- Once all three are done and you are within four months of your certification expiration date, you will see a "Click Here to Continue" button that will take you to the payment screens. Once your registration is complete, your recertification will be processed in no more than two days.
- PPTs/PDFs with step-by-step instructions and screen shots are available. Check out the [Resources tab](#) and look at the [How To](#) page.

CPS Customer Service Survey Available

Safe Kids is interested in your experiences with our CPS customer service. If you have contacted the customer service representatives by calling the toll-free number (877-366-8154) or by e-mailing them at cps.certification@safekids.org, please take a few minutes to complete the online survey under [Contact Us](#) on the Certification Web site.

This [survey](#) should take no more than two minutes to complete. There is no limit to the number of times you can share your opinions with us.

Thank you for helping us improve our customer service!

GENERAL | [Top](#)

By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children in hot cars

- **2014:** 30
- **2013:** 43
- **2012:** 34
- **2011:** 33
- **2010:** 49

Details are available at <http://ggweather.com/heat>

CPS Recertification

- **2015:** 52.5 percent (January-February)
- **2014:** 56.0 percent
- **2013:** 58.5 percent
- **2012:** 54.9 percent

Resources from the Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety

The Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (MACPS) is a consortium of car seat, child restraint and vehicle manufacturers that have chosen to be a part of this collaborative group. Established several years ago by Safe Kids Worldwide, the Alliance's mission is to support Child Passenger Safety Technicians, Instructors and Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Advocate affiliates by providing a common direction through harmonized statements that reflect best practice recommendations and to support ongoing education for CPS Technicians and Instructors.

The MACPS funds scholarships to Lifesavers and KIM conference, sponsors a seat check annually in conjunction with the KIM conference and provides educational grants.

[Harmonized Statements](#) include:

- Expiration Dates
- Accessories / Non-Regulated Products
- Recline Angle Indicators
- Switchable Retractor and Belt-Positioning Boosters
- IIHS Video - Using a Belt-Positioning Boosters with Lap Only Belt
- Installing 3 Car Seats Across the Back Seat
- Car Seats Gate-Checked or Checked as Luggage
- Car Seats and LSVs (Low Speed Vehicles)
- Over-tightening of Safety Belts when installing Car Seats
- Using Safety Belts with Pre-tensioners to install Car Seats

Are you planning a state or regional conference? The MACPS has a conference calendar to help with scheduling. When scheduling your conference, check this calendar for possible conflicts. To have your conference dates included on this calendar email info@saferideneews.com with the date, location, and contact info.

Further and future information regarding MACPS Harmonized Statements and Grant Application processes can be found on their [website](#).

Thank you from the [2015 members of the MACPS!](#)

Submitted by Vera Fullaway, Safe Traffic System, Inc., MACPS Vice-Chair (Lakewood, Col.)

Auditor Alcove: Is Your Information Accurate?

Long before you ever became a CPST, you created an online profile at cert.safekids.org. The registration page provides you with two sections for your contact information: your official mailing address and your posted address.

All of your contact information, except your name, can be updated by you when you log in to your profile (call 877-366-8154 if you need your username and/or password).

If you need to update your name (due to marriage, divorce, typo, or other), you can send an emailed request to Safe Kids at kchausmer@safekids.org. Be sure to include your technician/instructor number, your name as it is listed in the system, and your name as you would like it to appear. If you do not receive a confirmation email within two business days, please call (202) 662-0600 as the spam filters may have blocked your message. Read the [FAQ](#).

Official Address: The official mailing address section is used for all certification program contact, including update and reminder emails, links to the [CPS Express](#) newsletter, and audit notifications. It is important that this section be accurate and updated. If you move or change jobs, your profile needs to be updated so that you continue to receive attempted contacts about your certification. Please make sure cps.certification@safekids.org is an approved sender (talk with your IT department if you need help) so these important updated don't get stuck in your junk folder.

Posted Address: If you choose to have any or all of your information made available to the public once you are a CPST, you

will need to check the “Available to Public” box. Whatever you type in the section labeled Posted Address (directly above this checkbox) is what caregivers will see when they [search for a tech](#) in your area. You can post as much or as little information as you would like.

If you have an idea that would make things easier for other CPSTs or CPSTIs, please share it with us. If you have any questions about CEUs, what documentation is required, or [audits](#), please e-mail cpsaudit@safekids.org.

Submitted by Jami Eklund, CPSTI and Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Canton, Ohio)

Fact or Fiction:

In order to register a Spanish Materials Certification course, the Lead Instructor needs to be Spanish speaking.

FICTION: Starting last October, approved Lead Instructors can register “Spanish Materials” courses and provide Technician Guides and quizzes for candidates who might prefer written materials in Spanish. Registered students may receive only one manual, either English or Spanish. As Spanish manuals are sent for these specially-designated courses, the Lead Instructor can request English Technician Guides from Safe Kids to be able to provide the best options for the course’s students. The Spanish materials are only provided for designated courses.

Any Lead Instructor can provide these Spanish materials courses and does not need to be bilingual. To be able to provide such courses, a Lead Instructor logs into their CPS Online Profile, clicks on “Agreement to be the Lead Instructor for Spanish bilingual courses”, carefully reads the agreement and checks the box at the bottom. Safe Kids and NHTSA believes that by providing these Spanish language materials, we will see more bilingual technicians in communities across the country.

When using the FIND A COURSE search, there are options to search for Materials Language = English, English or Spanish, or Arabic (Qatar only).

Read more: [Spanish Materials Course Overview](#)

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, FL)

Fact or Fiction:

A seat check is the same thing as being checked by a senior checker.

FICTION: Seat checks for recertification require close observation of the entire check by an Instructor or Technician Proxy. Senior Checkers are the second set of eyes to double check everything at the end of the check.

A seat check for recertification is completed in a vehicle and observed by a CPS Instructor or a Technician Proxy. Direct observation helps ensure that communication with parents is accurate and consistent with the information and methodologies detailed in the standardized curriculum. The ideal has always been instructor observation of seat checks, and was strongly recommended by the National CPS Board. It is not required to have an instructor at each checkup event. Safe Kids and the CPS Board always encourages a second set of eyes to check an installation to ensure quality service to families.

- [Seat Check FAQs](#)
- [Seat Checks for Recertification](#)
- [How to Enter Seat Checks](#)
- Read more about becoming a [Technician Proxy](#)

Many people use the term senior checker even though they are not official Safe Kids events. The requirements and official approval as a Senior Checker are through Safe Kids Buckle Up.

A Senior Checker designation is not a component of the CPS certification program administered by Safe Kids. A separate CPS-related Safe Kids program, Safe Kids Buckle Up (SKBU), reviews and approves Senior Checker applications from www.safekidsweb.org. A Senior Checker is required at registered Buckle Up checkup events and Buckle Up permanent inspection stations.

Senior checker: Applications are submitted online by the technician and approved by the Coalition Coordinator before final review within the SKBU department. Senior Checkers must update their profiles annually and update their SKBU profiles when they recertify (add new certification expiration date) to avoid a lapse in approval.

If you are interested in working with your local Safe Kids Coalition as a Senior Checker, please contact your local [Safe Kids Coordinator](#).

Featured FAQs: All About Technician Proxies

Want to know more about [Technician Proxies](#)? Thanks to the National CPS Board Certification-Recertification Committee, there are ten few FAQs to supplement the information on the [website](#).

- [How long do I have to be certified before I can become a Technician Proxy?](#)
- [Once the Technician Proxy application is complete and the one-time registration fee is paid, how long do I have to complete the Technician Proxy application process?](#)
- [As a CPSTI who is submitting a testimonial on behalf of the applicant, am I responsible for the Technician Proxy's approvals of other Technician's sign-offs moving forward?](#)
- [As a CPSTI, I am skeptical of the idea of Technician Proxies. What are the benefits?](#)
- [What do Technician Proxies need to do to maintain their status as a Proxy?](#)
- [What does a Technician Proxy need to do to sign off on Technician seat checks?](#)
- [What happens once a Technician Proxy signs off on a Technician seat check?](#)
- [What other qualifications should a Technician have before applying to be a Technician Proxy?](#)
- [Are there guidelines to help Technician Proxies in overseeing a technician seat check?](#)
- [Should the Instructor and Technician Proxy maintain a close relationship?](#)

Notes from the CPS Board: Getting to Know Your Board

Each month, learn a little about a child passenger safety board member here in the CPS Express.

Diana Imondi Dias (Providence, RI) AAA Representative

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I was on the Board in 2008-2011 and I'm back again for more as of January!
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I became a tech 8 years ago and then an instructor 3 years later. So, I've been an instructor for five years.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** Working as AAA's Northeast's Traffic Safety Education Specialist, I was already a big fan of car seats but I became a true believer when, almost 8 years ago I was in a crash with my son. It was Christian's sixth birthday and he was riding secured in a harnessed car seat. It fueled my passion for educating caregivers and advocacy (especially in regard to booster seat laws and keeping small children in a 5-point harness as long as possible)!
- **Who taught your first certification course?** My instructors were Bernie Schipelliti, Ross Panacopoulos and Joan Westbrook in beautiful Boston. Boston strong!
- **Advice for the field: Take advantage of local resources and CPS community! Treat others as you want to be treated.**
- **What are your hobbies:** Reading, decorating projects, cooking.
- **Tell us about your family:** I have a 13-year-old named Christian and a Shitzu named Fenway.

JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS | [TOP](#)

Just Do It! Or Not!

Organizing a certification course means lots of details, lots of questions and to do lists. Can I add time for activities? What about a handout? I'd sure like to show a video.

The CPS Board gets asked about modifying NHTSA's curriculum so we put together these tips. Of course, these Do's and Don'ts are NHTSA-approved!

Curriculum Add-Ons: Do's and Don'ts

As you get ready for your standardized course, you may want to use materials not included on your Instructor DVD. These tips will help you make those choices. Confirm that the added materials are technically accurate and are consistent with the curriculum. Be selective so you don't overwhelm the students.

Do's – You can provide additional student handouts (optional)

- Anything referenced in the Technician Guide
- General handouts that reinforce curriculum content, such as fact sheets, LATCH Manual, etc.
- State laws description
- Local contact lists/Class roster

- Handouts for students to practice curriculum content.
 - Example: Assigning seating positions, such as the in-class activity (seating positions, OP systems, family information); could be a homework assignment.
- Future events/Next steps

Do's – Course management

- YOU CAN add a small symbol (PPT) to remind instructor about questions, video, etc.
- YOU CAN show images of the skills tests to facilitate introduction of the forms.
- YOU CAN add practice time to activities, testing, exams, etc.

Do's - Instructor Tools for course management. (Instructors Only)

- Tools that are used to make running a class easier –Instructor tracking/recording forms (e.g. instructor hours calculator)
- Tools for setting up practice activities and assessments
- Child age/weight cards, vehicle identification cards, vehicle position cards and anything else referenced in your instructor guide.

Don'ts

- Don't add or change PowerPoint Slides content (other than adding icons, as stated above)
- Don't add new content to the program (e.g. CPS in Recreational Vehicles, additional aviation content)
 - Do: Make it into an update session where the new techs can earn a CEU.
 - Do: Provide information on upcoming CEU opportunities (such as webinars) at the end of class. (Locate upcoming webinar information in monthly CPS Express newsletters)
- Don't make your own skills test forms. You must use the ones provided.
- Don't add videos or topics to the curriculum. You could confuse students with funny or additional videos.
 - Do: Offer extra videos after the course is over (all testing). These should be voluntary (e.g. at lunch or after class).

Available as a [PDF](#).

Submitted by the National Child Passenger Safety Board Quality Assurance Committee

Curriculum Update – New DVDs

Safe Kids is sending out an updated NHTSA DVD to all Instructors and Instructor Candidates this month. It will have minor changes to the PPT, including slides referencing activities and progress checks in each module. Only one slide with new content was added (4-13b).

NHTSA and the CPS Board also wanted to provide a new option for presenting information during class. All relevant notes from the IG have been pasted into the notes section of every PowerPoint slide throughout the curriculum. This includes references to the Technician Guide (TG), instructor talking points and instructor notes. To view this information while presenting, please review the following steps:

- Open the module in PowerPoint.
- Across the top of the tool bar, select the tab for "Slideshow."
- PC Users
 - Using two monitors: In the section of the toolbar labeled "Monitors" select the check box for "Use Presenter View."
 - Begin slideshow. Presenter view shows the full screen slide show on one monitor for the students to see and a "speaker view" on another monitor showing the speaker notes, a timeline and a preview of the next slide.
 - One monitor: If you only have one monitor, you can use Alt + F5 to try put "Presenter View." This allows you to see your notes pages, the current slide and a preview of the next slide. The students can only see the full screen slideshow.
- Mac Users
 - In the toolbar section, click on slideshow, and select "Presenter View." While the students can only see the full screen slide show, your current slide, notes page and a preview of the next slide will be on your computer monitor.

- So rather than flipping through your IG, you will have all of the notes right in front of you on the screen.

A comprehensive overview of all the changes will be on your new DVD. New DVDs will be marked “rev. 2/2015.”

As always, test that the PPTs work well, including all videos, on the computer you will use for the course. They are all embedded, which should make things much easier for most of you.

How will I know when the DVDs are out? Safe Kids sent out an email notification that the DVDs shipped last week.

When do I start using the new DVD? Although there are no major content changes, the new DVD has improvements. Start using it as soon as possible. Again, there are no major changes so changing over will be easy.

A note on USBs

For those instructors who purchased the USBs with the curriculum, Safe Kids is not able to provide replacements. They are easy to update and reload the new content from the new DVD. It will take only a few minutes.

Here's how:

- Copy the new DVD onto your desktop (always good to have it saved on your computer!)
- Plug in your USB drive and open it so you see the folders
- Select all the content on the USB and delete it (you will have a fresh, new, blank drive)
- Select the folders you just copied onto your desktop and copy them onto your USB. The files are large so it may take a few minutes. Eject the USB and you are good to go.

If you have questions or want to return the USBs and have Kerry update them for you, contact [Safe Kids](#).

Submitted by the National Child Passenger Safety Board Curriculum Committee

CEU CORNER | [Top](#)

This section provides information on nationally available continuing education opportunities. We are not able to include information on state or local conferences, training or other technical updates if they cannot be made available nationally. This information is provided as a resource only. Events and activities listed here are not endorsed by Safe Kids unless otherwise noted.

CPS Express CEU Corner Submissions: Please e-mail the necessary information (in the format below) to [Kerry Chausmer](#).

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

[Lifesavers Conference](#)

Location: Chicago

Dates: March 15-17, 2015

[2015 North Carolina Buckle Up NC Conference](#)

Location: Raleigh, North Carolina

Dates: March 25-27, 2015

[Buckle Up Missouri CPS Conference](#)

Location: Springfield, Missouri

Dates: May 27-28, 2015

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Location: Orlando, Florida

Dates: August 12-15, 2015

[2015 Maine Child Passenger Safety Conference](#)

Location: South Portland, Maine

Dates: September 13-15, 2015

Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge. [Learn more](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Live Webinars

Test your connection now! Go to <http://bit.ly/testGTM> and click on JOIN LIVE MEETING. If you have problems, you can talk with their customer support for assistance.

Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group? [Read more](#)

More webinars coming soon! Mid-month updates posted on [Facebook](#).

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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Ideas and Article Submissions

Advocates and manufacturers are welcome to submit articles, or suggestions for articles, to the CPS Express!

Send your ideas and submissions to kchausmer@safekids.org

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

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