

# CPS Express !



January 1, 2011

We don't want you to miss out on the latest edition of the *CPS Express!*  
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#### **Not sure of the steps needed to re-certify?**

Check out the [re-certification flow chart](#), the [personal re-certification log](#), and the **Policies and Procedures Manual** (ver 12/21/2010) under [Resources](#).

Tech Gear and Course Products Now Available- [CHECK THEM OUT](#)

What should you, as a caregiver, expect from a Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST)?  
[CLICK HERE](#)

#### **NCPSB Tech Nominations due [January 3](#)**

This is a reminder that the National Child Passenger Safety Board is accepting nominations in recognition of outstanding CPS contributions during 2010 by Technicians and Instructors. The nomination deadline is January 3, 2011 and late nominations will NOT be accepted or considered.

Each winner will be awarded \$500, courtesy of AAA.

Refer to <http://www.cpsboard.org/awards.htm> for additional information and to download the nomination form.

#### **ASTM Consumer Member Recruitment**

ASTM-International, the nation's largest census-based standards development organization, is seeking CPSTs to serve as consumer representatives on subcommittees that develop safety standards for a wide array of consumer products including child restraints, cribs, strollers, high chairs, toys, and many other products. The consumer viewpoint is an important consideration in developing comprehensive,

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effective standards, and more consumer input is needed.

The ASTM membership fee is waived for consumers by ASTM, so there is no cost to join. You can join as many subcommittees as you like, each pertaining to a particular product type (high chairs for example). Members of each subcommittee are invited to attend typically two meetings per year and are eligible to influence test methods and vote on standards as they come to ballot. If you'd like to help carve out the future safety of children's products or other consumer products, join ASTM today and sign up for the F-15 committee on consumer products. To join, go to [www.ASTM.org](http://www.ASTM.org).

For more information contact Len Morrissey at 610-832-9710 or [lmorriss@astm.org](mailto:lmorriss@astm.org).

Submitted by Donald Mays, Consumers Union (Yonkers, NY)

### **State CPS Laws - Where to find them**

As technicians, we may get calls from folks asking about child safety laws in other states. Many organizations maintain online summaries, including Safe Kids USA. The Safe Kids site allows you to search by state for a variety of state and Federal regulations.

Using Louisiana as an example, the site includes information on:

- Child Passenger Safety Law
- Fireworks
- Helmet Law
- Unattended Children in Cars Law
- Novelty Cigarette Lighter Law
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Law
- Seat Belt Law

These summaries can be used to help parents understand child safety laws, which can sometimes be confusing to understand. To access the summaries, visit <http://bit.ly/LawsByState>.

Submitted by Tanya Chin Ross, Director of Public Policy, Safe Kids Worldwide (Washington, DC)

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### **Re-certification Reminder**

- CEU types, details, audit requirements [Learn More](#)
- Re-certification FAQs [Learn More](#)

You may re-certify up to **four months** before your certification expiration date without losing any time. Avoid problems--don't delay!

### **Basic re-certification 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

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- online and a certified instructor approves them before your re-certification date.
- **Community education** (choose one):
    1. 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.
    2. 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** earned and reported during a current two-year certification cycle.
    1. You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required.
    2. 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.
    3. 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 re-certification fee before your certification expiration date. You can register up to 4 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:

- (1) Completed all five seat checks (entered and CPSTI approved)
- (2) Entered at least six CEUs
- (3) Entered your community event information

Once all three are done and you are within 4 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 re-certification will be processed in no more than two days.

**PPTs with step-by-step instructions on how to recertify, including screen shots, are available under [Resources -> Instructions](#).**

### **CPS Customer Service Survey Available**

Safe Kids USA 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](mailto: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 five 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.

### **Auditor Alcove: Providing CEUs: Preapproval + Email = Easy Audit**

Are you thinking about hosting an in-person CEU session? The best way to make sure that attendees

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receive full CEU credit is to have your session pre-approved by the Certification Department. By submitting your agenda, you will know exactly how many CEUs can be awarded. You will be provided with a pre-approval ID number which will help you keep track of your sessions and will help CPSTs if they are audited.

Instead of printing certificates for all attendees, consider sending an electronic certificate instead. This will save you time and money! The attendees can keep the certificate in their computer and if audited, all they will have to do is forward the email.

You won't be getting frantic calls from a recently audited Tech who can't find their paper certificate!

Jami Revesz, Quality Assurance Specialist, is available for questions about course policy, calculation of teaching hours, CEUs or audits. She is also interested in sharing other ideas on how to teach the Certification Course so, if you have suggestions or ideas that you would like to share, please send an email to [cpsaudit@safekids.org](mailto:cpsaudit@safekids.org).

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## **By the Numbers**

### **Children Alone in Vehicles**

- Deaths of children left in hot cars in 2009: 32
- Deaths of children left in hot cars in 2010: 49
- Details are available at <http://ggweather.com/heat>

### **CPS Recertification**

- 2009: 55.5 percent
- 2010: 50.2 percent

**List of 2010 CPS Express *FAQs* and *Fact or Fictions* >> [Available here](#)**

**Featured FAQ:** [Can I watch videos for CEUs?](#)

Although watching a CPS technical video on your own would not qualify for CEUs, you could organize an update where you and fellow techs meet to watch and then discuss the video. This would be considered category 1 (in-person session). It might just be you and the technicians you work with, but with an agenda, sign in sheet, and proof of attendance, it will be organized and meet the requirements. It could also be submitted for pre-approval for CEUs. As with all CPS CEUs, the content must be CPS technical, such as LATCH or special needs transportation options, rather than programmatic.

[Form for pre-approval for CEUs](#)

**Fact or Fiction:** Techs can take update sessions or webinars again if they have been updated.

**Fiction:** Updates, including online/webinars, should be taken one time since content doesn't change

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drastically enough to warrant a new CEU. The idea is that technicians receive **new** information.

**Have a tidbit to share? Submit your Fact or Fiction to [Safe Kids Certification](#).**

### **Along for the Ride: Pet Transportation**

As CPS technicians we teach parents the best way to transport their children in vehicles, warning of the dangers when riding with unrestrained occupants or loose objects. An additional consideration is what families should do when traveling with pets. Unrestrained, they are potential distractions to the driver or harmful projectiles that could cause injury to other occupants. According to a [survey](#) released in August, 2010 from AAA, only 17 percent of drivers protected their pets with a pet-restraint system. The study also showed 55 percent of drivers readily admitted to petting their dog while driving and 7 percent admitted to giving food and water. Other distracting behaviors included driving with their dogs in their lap (21 percent) and playing with their dog (5 percent).

Though there are different restraint options available, there aren't official testing standards in place or regulations requiring restraint use for pets.

In February 2008, a study was done by the ADAC (Germany's equivalent of AAA) to test the performance of several pet restraints and compare their safety. Under German law, pets are considered cargo and the driver is responsible for properly restraining them. With over 8 million cats and 5 million dogs throughout the country, safe travel options for pets is reason for concern.

In the study they used dummies to simulate a 22 kg (approx. 48 lbs) dog, and a 4kg (approx. 8 lbs) cat in a 50 kph (approx. 31mph) frontal crash.

For the dog dummy, they tested the following scenarios:

- Unrestrained
- In a harness with double tie-in to vehicle belt
- In a harness with single tie-in to belt buckle
- With a pet carrier in the trunk area
- With a cage partition in the cargo area

For the cat dummy, they tested the following scenarios:

- In a carrier secured on the floor behind the front vehicle seats
- In a carrier secured with a 3-point belt

The study showed that the safest option is to use a pet carrier. The safest place to put the carrier is on the floor behind the front seats or in the rear cargo area. However, the size of the pet determines what option and location is available. When using a larger carrier, it is safer to place it in the cargo area, in conjunction with a well-secured cage partition. Obviously, unrestrained pets pose the greatest risk both to the animal and occupants just as an unrestrained human occupant would.

Read the report >> [CLICK HERE](#)

As research continues, more products will become available for safely transporting pets. Sleepypod is an example of a product available in the US for smaller pets: cats up to 15 lbs and dogs up to 12.5 lbs. Their goal is to create a pet travel system that can pass the same 30 mph frontal crash test required for child restraints (FMVSS 213). According to their Web site, their restraint was tested in a frontal crash at 30.6 mph. Video clips of testing of the Sleepypod testing done by the Japanese Automobile Research Institute are available [online](#).

There are many options out there for pet transportation. Although we can't share them all, a simple web search yields [many results](#), including [harnesses](#). When reading about pet transportation options, be sure to consider the testing.

The safety of all occupants, including pets, must be considered when making transportation decisions. Whatever restraint we choose, the goal is for *all* occupants to arrive safely to their final destination.

NOTE: Neither approval nor endorsement of products or testing included in this article is conveyed.

Submitted by J.J. Current and Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Washington, DC)

### **AAA Traffic Safety Culture Report - Interesting Findings**

AAA released its third annual report on traffic safety culture. The 2010 survey revealed that Americans tend to be in favor of more government and media coverage of traffic safety issues. It also found that many people recognize dangers but still engage in risky behaviors.

Some other major findings:

- One of every two Americans has been involved in a serious crash, has had a friend or relative seriously injured or killed in a crash, or both.
- Cell phone use while driving has become widespread—more than 2 in 3 drivers report talking on their cell phone while driving in the past month; more than 1 in 3 say they do so fairly often or regularly.
- Most people view drivers texting and emailing while driving as a very serious threat to their own personal safety and consider it completely unacceptable. However, many drivers don't perceive social disapproval from others.
  - Nearly 1 in 4 drivers (24%) admits to texting or emailing while driving.
- Most drivers view it as unacceptable to drive without wearing a seat belt, and more than 3 of 4 say that they never do
  - Nearly 1 in 10 admits that they drive without wearing their seat belt fairly often or regularly.
- 2 of every 3 Americans support laws allowing police officers to stop and ticket a driver for not wearing a seat belt even if they're not breaking any other law.

The report includes more information on topics including speeding, drinking and driving, distracted driving and perceptions of safety.

**Read the Report >> [CLICK HERE](#)**

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**Notes From The [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#):  
*New Cert Course Instructor CD***

Instructor Candidates and Certified Instructors were mailed the latest certification course CD and instructor manual replacement pages late last month. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the new materials. Starting February 1st, all courses must be taught using NHTSA's October 2010 (blue CD, rev 10/10) edition, including all assessments and other materials. Each member of the instructor team should be familiar with all course components before teaching.

All course materials are available from the CPS Board and are easily accessed through your CPS online profile. Just click on the Instructor Downloads (CPS Board) action item.

If you do not receive your packet (mailed from the National Safety Council) by January 15th, log into your online Safe Kids profile, double check that your official mailing address is correct and then send an email confirming your address to [kchausmer@safekids.org](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org).

The revised student manual will be mailed out for courses starting May 1st and will then be posted to the [CPS Board site](#).

Submitted by Jennifer Huebner-Davidson, Chair, Curriculum Committee - CPS Board (Heathrow, FL)

**Just for Instructors** [Back to the top](#)

**Revised Certification Course CD: Incorrect Links to Videos in Some PPTs**

As you familiarize yourself with the updated (ver. 10/10) NHTSA Certification Course CD, you may have noticed that the videos in the “MPG Videos Dark R1010” PowerPoint slides do not open during the slide show. This is due to the links to the videos in this set of slides mistakenly being set to pull up the .wmv rather than the .mpg videos. You have 3 options to correct this error:

1. Correct the video links in the file (refer to “[Working with the Presentation and Video Slides](#)” in the README\_FIRST\_SLIDES-AND-VIDEOS\_R1010.pdf file on the Instructor CD for detailed instructions)
2. Use the other type files (PowerPoint slides folder: WMV Videos Dark R1010, WMV Videos Light R1010, MPG Videos Light R1010)
3. Download the corrected PPTS from the CPS Board site by downloading the complete Instructor CD with corrected links in the slides or by downloading just the dark background slides with links to the MPG videos corrected To access the files, click on the Instructor Downloads (CPS Board) link in your CPS online profile.

**IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:** Because the videos are linked to the presentation, the videos need to be in the same folder as the PowerPoint presentation to work smoothly. We recommend that you copy the entire PowerPoint Slides folder on the updated Instructor CD “as is” to the hard drive of the computer that will be used for a class and check all slides and videos for all modules in the presentation on the computer and projector that will be used for the class **BEFORE** you begin teaching.

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If you have any questions about the CD, please contact Bill Hall at [hall@hsrc.unc.edu](mailto:hall@hsrc.unc.edu). Apologies to all Instructors for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Submitted by Bill Hall, Editor, cpsboard.org, UNC Highway Safety Research Center

### **Instructor Tips: What you suggested!**

Recently Safe Kids conducted a survey of all Technicians and Instructors to help the National Child Passenger Safety Board develop national CPS programming. Included in the survey was a section for the Instructors to provide an instructional tip to other Instructors. Each month we will share at least one tip from that survey.

This month's tip comes from an Instructor in Maryland: *Prepare for EVERY class as if you are an Instructor Candidate.*

**New Cert Course Instructor CD and Replacement Pages Available** - See the Notes from the CPS Board (above)

### **CEU Corner** [Back to the 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 USA unless otherwise noted.

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

### **Nationwide CEU Calendar**

To access the calendar:

1. <http://www.carseatscolorado.com/>
2. Click on Training Opportunities
3. Click on Continuing Education for Certified Technicians
4. On the drop-down menu, please select CEU Sessions Nationwide Listing

Instructions on how to post an event [Click Here](#)

### **Online Courses**

**Provided by: Safe Kids Worldwide and NHTSA**

Total available: 6 CEUs

Location: <http://www.safekidswebinars.org/>

Currently available: Vehicle Safety Part 1: Federal Regulations, Vehicle Safety Part 2: Consumer Testing, School Buses, A Tech's Guide to Recalls and Transporting Children in Vehicles Other Than Cars.

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Technicians will register, log in, finish the webinar and print a certificate of completion. This webinar requires participants to gather information from other sites (links provided) to have a quality learning experience.

\*\* Each webinar is available for download (pdf) for local technical update sessions.

**Provided by: UNC Highway Safety Research Center and NC CPS Conference -**

<http://www.buckleupnc.org/>

Total available: 4.5 CEUs

Location: <http://www.buckleupnc.org/training/index.cfm>

For CEUs, you must create an account on buckleupnc.org. Techs will only be able to take the quiz and earn CEU credits if they have created an account, are signed in, and have watched the entire video.

NOTE: Non-CEU presentations are also available.

**Provided by: National Child Passenger Safety Board**

Total available: 4 CEUs

Location: <http://www.cpsboard.org/>

Four presentations -- one about new child restraints, another combined about boosters and airbags, one on LATCH and Tethers, and one called Fact or Fiction. Each presentation is available for download.

Details and instructions are available on the Board's [Web site](#).

**GET INVOLVED!** The Board is interested in expanding its online course library and is requesting presentations from the field. Once submitted, the Board will review each presentation and then add to the online offerings. The presentations must be technically accurate, up-to-date, and be available in PowerPoint.

[Click here](#) for the presentation application and submission instructions.

**National Conferences/Meetings**

Event: Child Passenger Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses NHTSA's National Training;  
Offered in conjunction with 20th National Conference on Transporting Students with Disabilities & Preschoolers

Location: Kansas City, MO

Workshop Date: March 13, 2011

Conference Dates: March 11-16, 2011

CPS CEUs available: 6

Fees/Requirements: see Web site

For more information: <http://www.eduprogroup.com>

Event: Lifesavers Conference

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Pre-conference dates: March 26, 2011

Dates: March 27-29, 2011

CPS CEUs available: TBD

Fees/Requirements: see Web site

For more information: <http://lifesaversconference.org/index.html>

Event: Midwest Regional Child Passenger Safety Conference

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Location: Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (Hutchinson, KS)

Pre-conference date: May 10, 2011

Dates: May 11-12, 2011

CPS CEUs available: TBD

Fees/Requirements: Conference Fee \$25

For more information: <http://www.ktsro.org/conference.html>

### Teleconferences/Moderated Webinars

*Stay tuned!* More webinars will be scheduled soon. For updates, join us at [www.facebook.com/CPScert](http://www.facebook.com/CPScert).

[Contact Us](#) | [Back to the top](#)

### 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](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org). All submissions will be edited for content and length.

### Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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