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National CPS Certification

CPS Express !



October 1, 2011

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.



SCAN ME and go to the CPS Cert Home Page



When was the last time you checked the information in your CPS online profile?
>> **[PLEASE DO IT NOW!](#)** <<

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Go to www.SafeKidsWebinars.org for online CEUs and for Tech Gear: Shirts, cups, signs, dolls.

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Announcements and Notices

Not sure of the steps needed to re-certify?

Check out the recertification tips and tools under [Resources](#).

Details in the **Policies and Procedures manual** (ver. 10/1/2011) -- just click on the button on the right at <http://cert.safekids.org>.

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](#) <<

CPS Cert Web Site Gets A New Look

Log onto our Web site and check out the new format. The main page, <http://cert.safekids.org> is broken down into 3 main pictures: "Be A Tech", "I'm A Tech" and "Get My Child's Safety Seat Checked". In response to requests to make information easier to find, the main menu bar along the top has been reorganized, the content trimmed, and, yes, the search engine actually works!

encouraged techs to continue their CPS practice and become instructors, working with them as they continue to improve their technical and communication skills, eventually submitting a testimonial for their application. As we make improvements to the certification program and our web site, you will soon notice we have revised the Instructor Candidate Application.

NOTE: As of October 1, the application fee no longer expires after six months.

>>[10 Steps to Become an Instructor](#)<<

Considering becoming an Instructor? You will notice a new item as part of the paperwork:

If you have identified a Certification Course where you plan to teach as an IC (if approved), enter it below:

Course ID #: _____ Start date: _____

Lead instructor name: _____

Mentor instructor name (if identified): _____

This additional piece does not mean that an IC application will be denied if a course is not already identified, but to reinforce that they should be working to find a course, and be working closely with an instructor team. For a positive experience, it is important that Instructor Candidates think ahead and get organized. As technicians prepare for their instructor candidacy, they must submit a completed application at least six weeks prior to the registered course that they wish to participate in as an Instructor Candidate. This allows time for the application to be fully reviewed and for instructor materials to be shipped in plenty of time before the course starts.

Because there is a large amount of material to go over (not just the entire manual but also course logistics), working closely with the mentor and Lead Instructor is a vital part of the Instructor Candidacy process. Meeting with them in advance helps them gauge your mastery of the course materials and ability to present the information. This time helps you develop a rapport with the Instructors. Building this team will not only help you during your IC, but will carry forward to future classes.

The preparation time is especially important if you are planning on teaching a course less than 6 weeks away. We know that there are times when classes are not regularly available or there are scheduling conflicts that affect when you can teach and you are forced to make tough choices. If you are working in a tight timeline, you must have an open and honest discussion with both your Mentor and Lead Instructor about your readiness to teach.

The IC process is an educational experience for you while preparing you to be an effective instructor. At the same time, the students are provided with a quality course and learning experience. The better you are at presenting the curriculum and communicating with the students and instructor team, the higher the quality of the class. Remember that you are also shaping the minds of a classroom full of future technicians.

Use your time wisely and plan ahead. That will lead to a successful experience for everyone.

If you have any questions about the Instructor Candidacy application, feel free to contact J.J. at 202-662-0619 or jcurrent@safekids.org.

Submitted by J.J. Current, Safe Kids USA (Washington, DC)

Summer Tech Update: Stay In The Know!

The National Child Passenger Safety Board and NHTSA are pleased to bring you the Summer 2011 edition of Tech Update, the newsletter of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program.

This newsletter is designed to keep certified CPS Technicians informed of technical developments in the field and can be found on the cpsboard.org website.

Topics covered in this issue include:

- NHTSA's Latest CPS Campaign Strategy
- AAP's 2011 CPS Policy Statement
- NHTSA's New CR Guidelines
- Recall News
- Kids Left in Cars; Hyperthermia Prevention

The current report is available in html and PDF formats and back issues are available as PDFs. The Tech Update can be found at: <http://www.cpsboard.org/techupdate.htm>

As a reminder, Technicians may qualify for up to 1 CEU per certification cycle for reading two editions of the Tech Update and completing the quizzes. Go to <http://www.cpsboard.org/ceus.htm> for more information.

Submitted by Jenny Burris Harvey, managing editor, Tech Update (Edmonds, WA)

GM Introduces Industry's First Front Center Air Bag

The front center air bag deploys from the right side of the driver's seat and positions itself between the front row seats near the center of the vehicle. This tethered, tubular air bag is designed to provide restraint during passenger-side crashes when the driver is the only front occupant, and also acts as an energy absorbing cushion between driver and front passenger in both driver- and passenger-side crashes. The air bag also is expected to provide benefit in rollovers.

Air bag video >> [CLICK HERE](#)

Want more information? >> [CLICK HERE](#)

Program Reminders

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 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.

How-to videos coming soon at [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, 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: Say What??

Communicating effectively with parents and caregivers is an essential skill that every CPST must possess. While having great technical skill is important during a car seat check, it will do little good in the field if the CPST can't effectively educate the caregiver. Since the primary role of a CPST is to educate, as instructors it is critical that we ensure all of our students have the ability to efficiently communicate their new knowledge in a way that parents and caregivers can understand.

Role playing activities are found throughout the curriculum. These are classroom activities that engage the students. Going along with the Learn, Practice, Explain philosophy, students take the information they learned, practice it in the vehicles, then use these activities to explain what they have learned. Since the mandatory course checkup event is the final assessment component, we must be confident the students have all of the tools necessary to facilitate a proper seat check. If the event is their first time explaining the new concepts, they may struggle.

While conducting in-person course audits over the past 3 years, I have seen teaching teams take varying approaches to these activities. On one extreme, they were not utilized as role playing activities at all. Instead, the instructor did all of the talking. On the other extreme, the students were broken into groups of 2 so that everyone had a chance to work on their communication.

Each instructor team may have their own method for choosing students for participation in the activities. Whatever your approach, it is always a good idea to make sure your students are comfortable in the classroom environment. You may find, though, that even the most shy students open up beautifully when paired with the right role playing partner. Within the structure of the curriculum, there are many ways to personalize the course to best meet the needs of the students.

When you get to these activities, explain to the students that there will be 2 volunteers for each scenario: a parent/caregiver and a CPST. The students should engage in a conversation about the specified topic, making sure that they answer the questions as completely and accurately as possible. This is a great time to see if they feel comfortable saying "I don't know the answer to that, but I will help you find out!"

Role playing activities should not stay in the classroom. As a technician or instructor, you can develop your own scenarios to engage techs prior to events. A great way to be sure your volunteers have been staying current is to conduct some role playing activities during a pre-event meeting. This is a great way to introduce new topics, ideas, and products to your audience in a slightly more entertaining manner.

And why stop there?! We know that role playing is an effective tool to measure a person's knowledge on a subject. As a Lead Instructor, it may be beneficial to develop some scenarios that may pop up during a certification course. This will give your instructor team an opportunity to work on handling obstacles in a way that is agreed on by the entire instructor team.

Jami Revesz, Quality Assurance Specialist, is available for questions about course policy, calculation of teaching hours, CEUs, and 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.

General

By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

- Deaths of children left in hot cars

- 2009: 32
- 2010: 49
- 2011: 27
- Details are available at <http://ggweather.com/heat>

CPS Recertification

- 2010: 50.3 percent
- 2011: 55.1 percent (January-September)

Raising Your QR IQ

If you do not know what a QR code is, you have probably seen one whether in a magazine or on a product label. A QR (Quick Response) code is a black and white coded square that, similar to a bar code, when scanned by a smart phone's camera, opens to a web site, video, document or other online file. QR codes are used by companies to advertise products, provide easy access to information videos and coupons and discounts. So how can child passenger safety advocates use QR codes? The possibilities are endless!

At Safe Kids Maine, we coordinate one of the most active monthly car seat inspection stations in our state. Like your events, parents sometimes wait up to an hour for a seat check. To help pass the time, we created a [reference sheet that](#) contains QR codes that link to videos about child passenger safety. Parents who have a smart phone scan the QR code and watch videos as they wait their turn for an inspection. We also have the QR code printed on the educational handouts that we distribute that links to our web site, www.mainecheck.org One idea that we are using in future CEU classes is to provide a QR list of the presentations so students can follow the content of the presentation on their phones. This will save money on printing as well as keep them engaged and on task.

Staying in touch and active after class is essential! For our upcoming certification class, we will create a QR code with each student's contact information, if they have signed the waiver to be listed publically, and print it on their name tag. Students can scan each other's QR code and their contact information will be automatically added to their phone's contact list. QR codes can also be created for event dates so they can be scanned and added to the phone's calendar. We could also create some fun activities using QR codes for technical update classes. They can also be used at exhibit tables so parents can obtain additional information easily and quickly.

QR codes can be created for free! There are several websites available and a quick search will reveal many options. The site I prefer to use is <http://qrcode.good-survey.com/> because it allows me to save the codes as a .jpg image, which is easier for me to use in whatever format I need.

Whether it's a web site, video, picture, document or contact information, QR codes can be a useful addition to your child passenger safety program!

Editor's note: Child restraint manufacturers are starting to use these codes as a way for their customers to access the instruction manual, web site, FAQs, and more. >> [Example](#) <<

Suzanne Grace, CPST-I, Safe Kids Maine (Windham, ME)

New School Curriculum Uses Crash Tests to Teach Physics

National Geographic developed a new science curriculum unit for elementary and middle school students using Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) crash tests to teach the concepts of velocity, acceleration, and momentum. The curriculum for 4th through 10th graders is designed to demonstrate how science can be applied to the real-world problem of motor vehicle crashes.

Check out the full [JASON Project news release](#)

Featured FAQ: What is a Technician Proxy and how do I become one? (Oct. 1, 2011)

A Technician Proxy (Proxy) is a Certified Technician or Instructor Candidate who successfully applies to provide seat check reviews and sign offs for recertification. They must adhere to the rigorous standards in place for seat check reviews in terms of seat check feedback on communication and technical skill. This is not associated in any way with being a Senior Checker. It is simply a way to fill a need in areas with few Certified Instructors.

Certified technicians who have been certified for at least six months are eligible to apply. They will see a new action item, "Apply to be a Technician Proxy", in their CPS online profile. After paying the fee and submitting a complete [application](#) they are approved as a Proxy until their CPS Certification expires. Their certification status does not change. They have no additional recertification requirements.

Fact or Fiction: All techs are listed in the FIND A TECH search.

Only currently certified Technicians or Instructors who have allowed their information to be shared publicly will appear in your search.

If you want to have yourself listed or removed from the public database search, please log into your account and go to the Action Item: Update Profile and Contact Information

Scroll down to "Attributes" and you will see where you have the option to post your information publicly. A check mark in the box will allow your information to be posted. Removing the check will keep your information from the searchable list.

Notes from the [CPS Board](#): *About the Board*

The National Child Passenger Safety Board works to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. As a CPST, the board is available as a resource (for things like CEUs) and as a sounding board for the needs of the techs in the field.

CPSB Statement of Intent: The Board works collaboratively with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), who has the ultimate authority over the curriculum, and with the Certifying Body, who has ultimate authority over the certification and re-certification processes. The Board channels insight from their representative organizations to NHTSA and the Certifying Body. It is the intent of both NHTSA and the certifying body to make every effort to solicit the input of the Board and to inform the Board of changes in curriculum, policy and procedure prior to public announcement, however, neither NHTSA nor the certifying body are obligated to do so.

Where do you go if you have a question or an idea? Go to www.cpsboard.org and click on the [About the](#)

[Board](#) tab. There you can find information on the composition of the Board, the roles and responsibilities of members, and the member selection process. Whether you are a member of law enforcement, EMS, fire protection, hospital or injury prevention service, or a dedicated parent, you have a representative on the board!

Just for Instructors

Saying Goodbye to Your Tech Proxy

With the new official [Tech Proxy](#) process, instructors can no longer have a tech be their eyes and ears for seat checks for recertification. You may have used this informal option many times or not at all. It has always been at the discretion of the instructor.

If you have worked with a tech as your Proxy, encourage them to begin the Tech Proxy application process. The application includes testimonials from two instructors, each who have witnessed the tech working with another tech for at least two seat checks for recertification. This first-hand look at their technical and communication skills allows you to provide feedback and, if they do well, a testimonial in support of their application.

Please take a few minutes to review the application and the testimonial so you will be ready when you are asked to support them. If you have any questions, please contact Safe Kids (202-662-0619, jcurrent@safekids.org).

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.

Instructor from Tennessee: *"Know the chapters that you are going to teach. Take your time and don't rush."*

Instructor from North Carolina: *"Never assume you know the material. Study the Instructor Manual and supplemental information for every class as if it is your first class."*

Editor's note: If you are unsure, ask for help or clarification: kchausmer@safekids.org or jcurrent@safekids.org.

CEU Corner

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](#).

Online Courses

Provided by: Safe Kids Worldwide and NHTSA

Total available: 7 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, Transporting Children in Vehicles Other Than Cars and Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs.

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: Lifesavers Conference

Location: Orlando, Florida

Pre-conference dates: TBD

Conference Dates: June 14-16, 2012

CPS CEUs available: TBD

Fees/Requirements: see Web site

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

Teleconferences/Moderated Webinars

Check out www.Facebook.com/CPSCert for details as Safe Kids schedules more webinars.

Contact Us |

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 will be edited for content and length.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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