



## In This Edition

### Announcements and Notices

- Traveling Safety on a Plane
- Name Our Traveling Buddy
- REMINDER: 2012 National Child Passenger Safety Board CPS Awards Nominations
- Notice of Customer Service Holiday Closures

### Program Reminders

- Recertification
- Customer Service Survey
- Auditor Alcov: *CPS Board CEU Options*

### General

- By the Numbers
- Featured FAQ: *My certification expiration date is 4 months away and I already recertified. Can I earn CEUs now for my new certification cycle?*
- Fact or Fiction: *Car seats can be used in RVs.*
- CPS Board: *Cold Weather Conundrum*

### Just For Instructors

- When to Finalize a Course
- Tips: *What You*

## Announcements and Notices

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### Traveling Safely on a Plane

Everyone in the family should ride properly restrained whether on the road, on the tarmac, or in the air.

**Buy the ticket:** Children younger than 2 years are not required to be restrained or secured on aircraft during takeoff, landing, and conditions of turbulence. They are permitted to be held on the lap of an adult. Preventable injuries and deaths have occurred in children younger than 2 years who were unrestrained in aircraft during survivable crashes and conditions of turbulence so buy the ticket for your under-age 2 children and be sure they are properly protected in an approved safety seat.

Not all safety seats can fit on standard airplane seats, which are typically about 16 inches wide, but Safe Kids Worldwide and the Federal Aviation Administration strongly recommend using an approved child restraint if it fits. As in cars, babies and young children are best restrained in a rear-facing car seat, and a forward-facing car seat can protect toddlers when they outgrow the rear-facing convertible seat.

Children who have outgrown safety seats should sit directly on the airplane seat and, like all passengers, keep the lap belt buckled across their thighs or hips. Booster seats cannot be used on airplanes, because they require shoulder belts and airplane seats have only lap belts.

**What other restraints can they use?** In addition to conventional harnessed child restraints, one harness restraint is approved by the FAA for use on planes, called CARES. This vest is for children who weigh between 22 and 44 pounds and up to 40 inches. The CARES vest may be used for children with special health care needs who are over these limits. FIND OUT MORE: <http://www.kidsflysafe.com/faqs>

**Where should kids sit?** The FAA advises travelers with small children to reserve a pair of seats by a window. Car seats are not allowed in aisle seats or exit rows, where they could block emergency escape routes so they must be used at a window seat. Most airlines offer a discount for children under 2, so always ask!

Everyone should stay buckled up for the full trip. Even if you are allowed to sit unbuckled, turbulence is often unexpected. It is best to be secured in your seat, just like your kids.

Additional Resources:

- [FAA Flying with Children](#)
- [AAP Restraint Use on Aircraft policy statement](#)
- [CARES Child Aviation Restraint System](#)

*Suggested*

### **CEU Corner**

- Online Courses
- Conferences/Meetings
- Webinars

### **Support Our Advertisers**

[Learn More About CPS Express Ad Space](#)

Go to [SafeKidsWebinars.org](http://SafeKidsWebinars.org) for online CEUs and for Tech Gear: Shirts, cups, signs, dolls.

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

#### **Questions? Comments? Concerns?**

Safe Kids USA  
CPS Certification  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20004

Phone: 877-366-8154 (toll free)  
Fax: 202-393-2072

#### **Program Partners**

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### **REMINDER: National Child Passenger Safety Board CPS Awards Nominations: Deadline is January 2, 2012**

Details at (guidelines, eligibility and application) may be found at <http://www.cpsboard.org/awards.htm>.

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### **Name Our Traveling Buddy**

Watch the progress of our traveling crash test dummy head as he travels across the country on our facebook page. We need your help..he needs a name.



Take the [survey](#) and pick your favorite! The survey is open until December 20. Track your opinions at [www.facebook.com/cpscrt](http://www.facebook.com/cpscrt).

"The Adventures of \_\_\_\_" will be announced in the next CPS Express.

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### **CPS Certification Customer Service will be closed for the following holidays:**

- Monday, December 5, 2011 – closes at 2pm ET
  - Monday, December 26, 2011
  - Thursday, December 29, 2011
  - Friday, December 30, 2011
  - Monday, January 2, 2012
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### **Program Reminders | [Top](#)**

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### Program Sponsor



## Recertification

**Recertification Details** [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:

1. [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.

- \*NEW\* [How To Add a Seat Check Video](#)

2. [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.

3. 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

4. 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.

5. [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/PDFs with step by step instructions and screen shots](#)

[Check out the Resources tab and look at the How To page](#)

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### **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.

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### **Auditor Alcove: CPS Board CEU Options**

The cpsboard.org site helps make completing CEUs a little easier for those who are unable to attend in-person sessions. There are 4 web sessions currently available: Boosters and Air Bags, Latest Child Restraints, Fact or Fiction, and LATCH, Tethers, and the CPS Technician.

These sessions are reviewed and updated as needed.

The sessions are available to view online through PowerPoint and can be downloaded as a PDF. If viewed online, you may complete the accompanying 5 question quiz. If you score at least 80%, you will be prompted to print a certificate of completion. This certificate can either be printed or saved. Please be sure to either print or save the certificate because the CPS Board does not keep any record of completion and will not be able to offer a duplicate certificate in case of an audit.

You will also find links to the Tech Updates on the site. In order to qualify for CEUs, you must read 2 editions of the Tech Update and complete the accompanying 5 question quiz. The quizzes need only be submitted if you are selected for CEU audit. There is no need to send in the actual Tech Updates, I only need the quizzes.

If you have any questions about what qualifies for CEUs or what documentation is required, please visit <http://cert.safekids.org/ImATech/Recertification/AuditforCEUs.aspx>

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](mailto:cpsaudit@safekids.org).

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**General | [Top](#)**

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**By the Numbers**

### **Children Alone in Vehicles - Deaths of children left in hot cars**

- 2011: 30
- 2010: 49
- 2009: 32

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

### **CPS Recertification**

- 2011: 55.8 percent (January-November)
- 2010: 50.3 percent

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### **Featured FAQ: [My certification expiration date is 4 months away and I already recertified. Can I earn CEUs now for my new certification cycle?](#)**

Are you thinking about recertifying but have a very hectic schedule? Don't worry, as a Technician or Instructor, you can recertify up to 4 months prior to your certification expiration date. Knowing that your work schedule is ever changing, this option provides flexibility as to when you complete the recertification process. Don't wait until it's too late. Recertify early and cross off one item from your "To Do" list.

The CEUs you earn can only be applied if they occur within your current certification cycle. If you recertify early, the month and day of your certification cycle will not change.

For example, your certification ends on 12/01/11 and you decide to recertify early on 10/01/11. Your new cert cycle will be 12/02/11 – 12/01/13. Any CEUs earned between 10/01/11 and 12/01/11 will not count towards your new 2011 - 2013 cycle and you will not be able to enter them into your CPS online profile.

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### **Fact or Fiction: Car seats can be used in RVs.**

**Fact:** Yes, seatbelts and child restraints are to be used in an RV. Always check in the owner's manual and never use a CR facing sideways.

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### **Notes from the [CPS Board](#): *Cold Weather Conundrum***

I still recall the cold winter day I realized my son in his new adorable red snowsuit did not fit into the harness of his car seat. I was running late for an appointment and stuffed him into the seat managing to secure the harness clip, but not the buckle. I believed it would be fine for the short ride, and decided to tackle the problem later. That afternoon I adjusted the harness straps to accommodate his winter coats and the straps remained that way until spring. Years later and now a child passenger safety technician and instructor, I think back on this decision and cringe. At the time I believed I was keeping my baby safe and warm. We live and learn.

With winter upon us, we must educate caregivers on the very common misuse associated with adjusting harnesses for bulky clothing. Snowsuits and "puffy coats" (as we call them here in New England) compress in the force of a crash. Children can be ejected from both their

clothing and their car seat in a serious crash.

In the parts of the country that experience cold winter weather, we know that car seat check-up events are not conducted as frequently as in warmer seasons. Due to this fact, the message on proper harness fit through winter months is often more of a challenge to deliver. I encourage technicians to take the initiative to use this time of year to fulfill their community education requirements and include a demonstration on proper harness fit.

1. Clothe the child in their thick winter coat and secure him/her in the car seat, adjusting the straps to pass the “pinch test”.
2. Remove the child from the seat and take off the coat, replacing it with a thinner jacket or sweatshirt.
3. Place the child in the seat and secure him/her in the 5-point harness without tightening the straps.
4. Caregivers will clearly see that there is a great deal of space between the child and the harness, often enough space to lift the child out of the seat without unbuckling.
5. Remind caregivers that weight X speed= force. In a severe crash, the possibility of ejection is likely.
6. Ask the caregiver to tighten the harness to properly fit the child in the thinner jacket and complete a pinch test.

After the demonstration is complete, provide practical solutions for transporting a child in cold weather. Fleece jackets are a great suggestion to provide warmth without the unsafe bulk. Additional fleece blankets can be secured and placed over the child in the seat for a safe and cozy ride!

Caregivers may warm up the vehicle (not in an enclosed garage) prior to the trip, and bring infant seats into their home rather than leave it in a cold vehicle to provide a warmer start to a winter ride.

As child passenger safety technicians know very well, the very popular winter buntings (which the harness straps thread through) sold to fit both over and under the child are considered non-regulated products. These are not crash-tested with the seat. **NOTHING** should come between the child’s back and their seat. Advise caregivers not to use these buntings, but rather use blankets over the harness straps or buntings that fit over the shell of the car seat, as not to compromise a child’s safety.

**On behalf of the National Child Passenger Safety Board, best wishes to families everywhere for a safe holiday season!**

Submitted by Diana Dias, Injury Prevention Representative, CPS Board (Providence, RI)

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**Just For Instructors | [Top](#)**

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### **When to Finalize a Course**

Lead Instructors are responsible for finalizing the course, which includes entering student grades and instructor teaching hours. If there is an Instructor Candidate in the course, their grade is also entered during this process.

**Course finalization should be completed as soon after the course as possible**, definitely completed within a couple of weeks. Although new technicians can log into their CPS online

profiles as soon as their passing grades are entered online, the official notification letters are not mailed out until the course is finalized.

Rosters are a main reason for delays in finalizing a course. It is required that the roster accurately reflect the students in the room by the end of Day 1. If an attendee is not on the course roster, please be sure they have a CPS online profile and work with them to be sure payment is processed ASAP. They can register (pay) online by credit/debit/check card, E-Voucher or E-PO. If they have a paper PO, fax it in to Customer Service (fax: 917-305-9876) and then call to let them know it is Day 1 and request that it be processed ASAP. Customer Service is available from 9 am to 7 pm ET at 877-366-8154.

**Thank you for all your hard work!**

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**REMINDER:** Techs often turn to you for information on recertification, including when CEUs can be earned (see this edition's FAQ). If you are at all unsure, please contact CPS Customer Service or Safe Kids.

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### **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 share at least one tip from that survey.

Instructor from Wisconsin: *"Teach- find a way to do another class soon -once you have learned the material, it is difficult to keep current if your next instructional experience is a year or more away."*

*Editor's note:* If you are unsure, ask for help or clarification: [kchausmer@safekids.org](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org) or [jcurrent@safekids.org](mailto:jcurrent@safekids.org).

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### **CEU Corner | [Top](#)**

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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](mailto:Kerry.Chausmer).

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## Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge.

>> [Learn more](#)

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## National Conferences/Meetings

### Lifesavers Conference

- Location: Orlando, Florida
- Pre-conference dates: TBD
- Date and Time: June 14-16, 2012
- CPS CEUs available: TBD
- Fees/Requirements: see Web site
- For more information: <http://lifesaversconference.org/index.html>

### KIDZ IN MOTION

- Location: Orlando, Florida
  - Pre-Conference dates: August 15, 2012
  - CPS CEUs available: minimum of 10
  - Fees/Requirements: see Web site
  - For more information: [www.kidzinmotion.org](http://www.kidzinmotion.org)
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## Webinars

### Rear-Facing: The Facts and the Myths

- This session looks at the facts about rear-facing child restraints, along with some of the educational issues that need to be updated, corrected and refined.
- December 8, 2011 from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm ET (NY time)
- CPS CEUs available: 1
- Fees/Requirements: \$0, Pre-registration is required
- For more information: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/574025522>

### Child Restraint Manufacturer Update: Diono

- Learn about their child restraints
- January 11, 2012 from 1 pm - 2 pm ET (NY time)
- CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)
- Fees/Requirements: \$0, Pre-registration is requested
- For more information: <http://bit.ly/WebinarDiono>

**Get the scoop on new webinars!** Announcements are made at [www.facebook.com/CPScert](http://www.facebook.com/CPScert).

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