



February 1, 2012

An e-newsletter for CPS Technicians

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Announcements and Notices

2011 Certification Program Highlights

Safe Kids USA would like to thank the Certification Program Sponsor State Farm, NHTSA and the State CPS Training Contacts, and dedicated certified instructors who offer the courses at the local level.

Through these partnerships, child occupant protection issues remain at the forefront in the minds of American families.

2011 was an incredible year, most notably our recertification rate of an astonishing 56.4 percent - the highest ever recorded!

What else was accomplished?

- The certification program stayed relatively constant in 2011, with a slight increase of 808 techs to 34,323 from this time last year.
- 1971 techs attended tech updates (also known as Reunions), supported by our long-time sponsor State Farm®
- 640 (628 in 2010) full certification courses were offered. Courses were held in all fifty states, and in the District of Columbia, Guam, Israel and the United Arab Emirates.
- 151 (168 in 2010) certification renewal courses were offered in 39 states.
- 59,466.5 CEU hours were entered in online profiles, the highest percentage (56%) were In-Person sessions.
- 847 technicians from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Israel, and Guam were selected to be audited in 2011. Of those completed, all passed!
- Customer Service received 11,337 phone calls — an average of 43 calls per workday.
- **We added 8,632 new techs and 10,565 techs recertified!**

A full report is available on our web site under Who We Are, then [Annual Reports](#).

We can't thank you enough for all you do every day to help the families of

Share

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- Tips: *What You Suggested*

CEU Corner

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

Go to 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. 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

your communities travel safer.

Thank You, Techs!

State Farm is proud to be a long-time sponsor of the national CPS Certification program. We applaud your hard work on the ground (and in tiny back seats!) as an army of over 34,000 like-minded, dedicated individuals working with families on how to travel safely. Many of you have attended one of twelve annual reunions, tech updates where you can reconnect to learn about the latest in the field and network with each other.

State Farm is so pleased that our sponsorship continues through 2012. Our logo in this newsletter and on the web site doesn't indicate how much we appreciate all you do. Each of you has truly made a difference for all of us in the community in which you live and work. As we start the new year, please accept a huge thank you for all you do.

Submitted by Kellie Clapper, State Farm Insurance Companies (Bloomington, IL)

ATVs: Dangerous for Kids

As safety advocates, we have long known of the dangers to kids who ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). A [recent study published by Neurosurg Focus](#) proved that size is more important than skill or experience when it comes to young riders. Children are four to twelve times more likely to be injured riding an ATV than adult riders.

The major injury risks are The major risks associated with riding ATVs are:

- Head injuries (cause of most ATV-related deaths)
- Head and spinal trauma
- Abdominal injuries
- Abrasions, lacerations, and clavicle and extremity fractures
- Burn injuries from contact with the engine and exhaust system

The authors concluded that "Individuals with light weights and small wingspans, such as those in the pediatric population, are under considerable risk of injury when operating an ATV due to lateral, longitudinal, and vertical operational instability."

For more information:

- [Safe Kids USA ATV Policy Statement](#)
- [Children's Safety Network Off-Road Vehicles Injury Topic](#)

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

Program Partners



Program Sponsor



- [US Consumer Product Safety Commission ATV Statement](#)

CHOP Unveils New CPS Web Site

Last month, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) announced the launch of its new CPS website Car Seat Safety for Kids, replacing the popular Keeping Kids Safe During Crashes. The website domain remains the same at www.chop.edu/carseat.

The site brings together the expertise of CHOP and the best CPS resources available as a “one stop shop” for parents. CPS technicians will find that the popular “Car Seat Safety By Age” videos have been updated based on the latest recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. DVDs of the videos will be available in English and Spanish later this year. The site also features new content such as AS A section for expectant parents, one for parents of premature babies or babies with special medical conditions, and detailed information and links to find car seat checks nationwide. Parents, educators, and CPS technicians can also utilize the “Educational Resources” section, containing free illustrations, images, reports, fact sheets, and podcasts that are available for download.

A joint effort of the Center for Injury Research and Prevention and the Kohl’s Injury Prevention Program at CHOP, Car Seat Safety for Kids was made possible with the generous support of Global Automakers and Kohl’s. Please visit, link to, and share www.chop.edu/carseat with your colleagues and the parents with whom you work.

Submitted by Lindsey Borda, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)

Curbside tip: Download the short videos to your phone to share when educating families.

2011 Scientific Articles: A Year in Review

In case you missed these articles from 2011, here are some highlights. This list is not comprehensive.

A list of example articles appropriate for CEUs (3 for 1 CEU.1 CEU maximum) may be found at <http://cert.safekids.org/ResourcesFAQs/Forms/Recertification.aspx>. Click on the link “**Examples of scientific articles**”.

- American Academy of Pediatrics Technical Report: Child Passenger Safety Pediatrics. Vol. 127 No. 4 April 1, 2011, pp. e1050 -e1066
 - Available online -

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/127/4/e1050.full>

- American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: Child Passenger Safety Pediatrics. Vol. 127 No. 4 April 2011, pp. 788-793
 - Available online - <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;127/4/788>
- Grandparents Driving Grandchildren: An Evaluation of Child Passenger Safety and Injuries. Pediatrics. Vol. 128 No. 2 August 1, 2011
 - Available online - <http://www.pediatricsdigest.mobi/content/128/2/289.full>
- Emergency Physicians' Knowledge and Provision of Child Passenger Safety Information. Academic Emergency Medicine. Volume 18, Issue 2, pages 145–151, February 2011.
 - Available online (abstract only): <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1553-2712.2010.00971.x/abstract>

Program Reminders

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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.

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/PDFs with step by step instructions and screen shots >>](#)
[Check out the Resources tab and look at the How To page](#)

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: *Just Ask: Information From the Best Source*

The Certification department, with support from State Farm, has held a few webinars featuring different CR manufacturers over the last year. These webinars are a great opportunity for CPSTs to learn about new products and features without having to leave their home or office. The webinars require registration to participate. If you want to earn the CEU, you must register and view the presentation on your own, so that you have the opportunity to ask questions.

Questions? Yes, there are plenty. The most recent webinar featured Diono and there were almost 500 CPSTs in attendance. Allana did an excellent job of answering as many questions as she could in the allotted time. What I found, though, is that she also answers questions by email!

In my 8 years as a CPST, I have found that an email to the CPS rep for manufacturers will usually net a response within a day or two. This is helpful when you have questions about products or features. For example, I recently had an issue about the use of a questionable harness system in an IO CR for a baby I was helping in the NICU. It was a Saturday afternoon and customer service was not available. I had a list of contacts from a recent conference so I sent an email with pictures and an explanation. By Monday morning I had a response and a new set of harness straps on the way.

In my experiences, CR manufacturers are very communicative with the CPS advocates because we are the ones who help make sure their products are used properly. Next time you encounter an issue or just have a question, reach out! And feel free to share your experiences!

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.

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By the Numbers

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

- 2012: 0
- 2011: 30

- 2010: 49

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

CPS Recertification

- 2012: 50.5 (January)
 - 2011: 56.4 percent
 - 2010: 50.3 percent
-

Diono Webinar Follow up: Did I hear that right?

Thank you one and all for attending the Diono Update on Jan 11th. I wanted to clarify just a few questions. All of the other questions will be posted on our TechTalk Blog in the near future. Stay tuned!

Did you say the Radian can be used in ambulances on side-facing seats? Radians can be utilized in ambulances and helicopters. They can be installed on a jump seat in these vehicles as long as there is no other position available. You may NOT install a Radian on a jump seat in conventional passenger cars or trucks.

Harness can be below the shoulders forward facing? Yes, the shoulders may go above to TOP slot forward facing as long as the top of the ears are not above the top of the shell.

Radians with SuperLatch can be used for more than the upper weight limits in the vehicle? Diono stands behind overriding the vehicle manual for vehicles manufactured after Sept. 2005 and stands behind our NHTSA testing protocols, data and results. You can view our results on our website www.diono.com We are confident the SuperLatch will stay secured because we crash tested it at 35 MPH (almost 2x the G-forces) with no top tether using a fully weighted ATD to the maximum weight limits of the seat in both RF and FF positions. All anchors in vehicles manufactured after Sept 2005 have to meet the same strength test requirements mandated by NHTSA.

Submitted by Allana Pinkerton, Diono (Birmingham, AL)

Is it time for me to become a Technician Instructor?

The requirements to become an instructor are available on the [certification web site](#) under the “I’m A Tech” tab. Although technicians may take the initiative to approach an instructor, instructors are often the ones that approach skilled and motivated technicians as potential instructor material through certification classes. This provides an opportunity for instructors to mentor technicians over a period of time as soon as they become

certified. The interest in becoming an instructor does not hinge on the number of years that you have been a technician. Becoming an instructor is not for everyone, so you should carefully consider whether you would like to strive for that goal. It really comes down to asking yourself these questions:

- How solid are your technical and communication skills?
- How active are in the field?
- Have you volunteered to assist in certification classes in your community?
- How many local multi-agency events have you participated in?
- Are you a reliable team player?
- Would your agency/organization support you by allowing you to teach certification classes locally or regionally?
- Would you be available to participate in organizing check up events or technical updates?
- Are you willing and would you be available to work with local technicians by answering questions and assessing technical and communication skills for seat sign-offs for recertification?
- Is becoming a CPS Instructor an expectation in your agency/organization?
- How many classes will you be able to teach?

Anyone interested in becoming an instructor must realize that preparation time is critical to a successful instructor candidacy and, upon successful completion, as an instructor. This is an ongoing commitment and investment to stay up to date with the latest car seat and vehicle technology as well as staying familiar with the many resources of reliable information relevant to the field.

Note: There are also some states that have additional requirements to become technician instructors.

Recommendations:

- Review the requirements [online](#)
- Review the available [forms](#).
 - 10 Steps to be a Certified Instructor: Good overview of process.
 - Application for Instructor Candidacy: Be familiar with the requirements.
 - Instructor Candidate Evaluation: Expectations of the Mentor team.
 - Mentor - IC Guide (pdf): Helps assess your readiness and preparation
 - IC-Mentor worksheet: The instructor candidate completes this worksheet and submits it to their mentor before the course for discussion.
 - North Carolina IC and Technician Course Assistant Process and Evaluation (pdf) - Example of a state going above and beyond the national minimum requirements
- Talk to your agency supervisor about your interest. Discuss the

process and how this may benefit your organization and community.

- Work with local instructors: Ask them to evaluate your strengths and areas that need improvement and follow their advice.
- Assist with both certification and technical update classes: Great way to learn how the instructor team works together and manages time.

Submitted by J.J. Current, Safe Kids USA (Washington D.C.) and Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids USA (Ft. Myers, FL)

Featured FAQ: [Can I get credit for group participation for watching a webinar? \(Jan, 20, 2012\)](#)

CPS Category 4 (Online/Web session) CEU credit is only provided to techs who logged into a live webinar. A moderated Web session requires that participants have an opportunity for asking questions.

If you have a group that will be watching together, and everyone would like to earn CPS CEUs, it may be organized for a Category #1 In-person session. The person organizing would follow all the usual protocols like a sign in sheet and provide proof of attendance. Participants could watch the webinar together and then discuss it. They would also, of course, be able to submit the update for preapproval if they liked.

Fact or Fiction: Britax is currently the only manufacturer that allows using a tether while rear facing a convertible car seat.

Fiction: Combi and Diono also have child restraints that allow for rear-facing tethering.

For both models, a connector strap is provided and should be attached to a fixed belt anchor or vehicle seat track. It should also be attached in a place that will not be interfered with if the front seat moves backwards or forwards. Be sure to check the manufacturer's instructions for proper use and placement. The use of the tether rear facing provides additional stabilization and works to reduce rebounding in a crash.

Combi Cocco: All Combi Coccores can be tethered rear-facing as Combi made the change retroactive to include the previous models. For the older models, a tether attachment strap kit can be ordered by contacting their customer service department at customerservice@combiusa.com or calling 1-800-992-6624.

Review the tether attachment strap instruction manual at <http://combiusa.com/Content/Uploads/combi/Manuals/CCS0319-EN->

[060611.pdf](#)

Diono (formerly Sunshine Kids) Radian RXT: Review the instruction manual at http://us.diono.com/docs/manuals/Diono_US_RadianRXT_Manual_US_Eng_Web.pdf for read the product information page at <http://us.diono.com/en/car-seats/radian-rxt>.

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

Fact or Fiction: Most CR Manufacturers have an expiration date that is a minimum of 6 years.

Fact: Each child restraint manufacturer determines the appropriate expiration date by in-house testing requirements of components to ensure their safe use.

We should always consult the manufacturer's instructions for expiration dates. Innovative products are not conventional and are not necessarily used in a conventional way. One example is the BubbleBum inflatable booster (see Jan 1 CPS Express). The original instructions were 4 years from manufacture date and have been revised to state that the expiration date is 4 years from purchase date not manufacture date and not to use after this date. Note that the revised instructions will be sent to all registered users within the next month. BubbleBum has also made the revised instructions downloadable from their website: www.bubblebum.us.

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

Notes from the [CPS Board](#): *Staying Certified: Tips You Can Share*

Technology and research is constantly expanding our knowledge of the world. This is true in our CPS world. As new research is available or new tools created, our team at the National Child Passenger Safety Board makes every effort to work with our partner organizations to get news out to our talented team of technicians and instructors, offering webinars, CEU presentations and Tech Updates that relay new information or advances in our field.

As a technician or instructor you are already a leader in your community and we know you take this information out and implement it into your teachings and practice. But do you also consider the technicians you work with part of this community? Some of our team mates don't have the opportunities to travel to conferences or time to search online during work hours for the CEU offerings. How do we, as team members reach out and support these Technicians to keep them current, active and part of the

team?

One effective way to help keep your peers certified, as well as passing along updates, is to make copies of CEU-worthy articles and distributing this out to them at your next event. Three articles can be used for 1 CPS CEU. By keeping the copies of the articles, you have all you need in case of a CEU audit.

Emailing links to specific CEU webinars or programs have also proved very effective to some teams. It is as simple as:

I just completed the free CEU offering posted on the CPS Board Web site and thought you might like to check it out. It's called "What's New With Child Restraints . Read the article and complete the online post test to earn 1 CEU. Just go to <http://www.cpsboard.org> and click on the "Earn CEU's online" tab.

During our certification training we reviewed different learning styles with families, we should consider that there are different learning styles among our peers. Some of us like to earn CEUs at home by watching webinars while others prefer to read.

CEUs To Go: Consider having copies of the LATCH Manual and quiz at your fitting station. Consider having the two latest editions of the Tech Update and the associated quizzes so your Techs can leave with the ability to earn another CEU.

If they are not receiving the CPS Express, help them get signed up by updating their online profile and making cps.certification@safekids.org an approved/safe sender.

What other ideas have you found effective in helping your teams stay certified?

Forget where to find CEUs? Here's a reminder for you for just a few of the offerings available:

- <http://www.CPSBoard.org> (online CEUs and the Tech Update e-newsletter)
- <http://www.SafeKidsWebinars.org> (online CEUs)
- <http://www.carseat.org> (newsletter and Child Restraint Manufacturer Instruction quiz)
- <http://www.saferideneews.org> (newsletter and LATCH manual/quiz)

A more complete list of resources, links and ideas and the simple "Tips on How to get CEUs for Recertification" Tips on How to Earn Your CEUs (at home, no fees)" is available at <http://cert.safekids.org/ResourcesFAQs/Forms/Recertification.aspx>

Submitted by: Barbi Harris, CPS Board Injury Prevention/Healthcare Rep.

(Oceanview, NJ)

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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!

REMINDER: Techs often turn to you for information on recertification. If you are at all unsure, please contact CPS Customer Service or Safe Kids.

Instructor Tips: What you suggested!

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 Michigan: “ASK any question you have of the other instructors. No question is stupid. Experienced instructors often fall into a “rut” and forget how intimidating the first few classes can be to a new instructor.”

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

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 USA unless otherwise noted.

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

Online Courses

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

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
- Conference dates: August 16-18, 2012
- CPS CEUs available: minimum of 10

- Fees/Requirements: see Web site
 - For more information: www.kidzinmotion.org
-

Webinars

Helping Children with Special Healthcare Needs - Tips for Techs

March 15, 2012 from 1 pm - 2:30 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/March15CPST>

Get the scoop on new webinars! Announcements are made at www.facebook.com/CPScert.

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