

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.

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CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



October 2014

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

Time is running out: 2015 CPS Technician and Instructor of the Year due October 10

The deadline to nominate an outstanding Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor of the Year is this Friday, October 10.

For information, guidelines and eligibility go to <http://www.cpsboard.org>.

Submitted by Audrey Eagle, National Child Passenger Safety Board, Vehicle Manufacturers Representative (Auburn Hills, MI), and Sarah Tilton, National Child Passenger Safety Board, At-Large Representative (Ft. Mill, SC)

New Online Resources Premiered During CPS Week

Both Safe Kids Worldwide and NHTSA released new resources and web site tools as part of their individual CPS week activities.

NHTSA

NHTSA launched a new tool for parents called [The Car Seat Finder](#). This online tool helps parents and caregivers select the right car seat or booster for their child. Users enter a child's birth date, weight and height, and then are provided with car seat type results that fit their child according to NHTSA's best practice recommendations. Please visit the [website](#).

NHTSA also announced its new campaign: "Don't Delay. Register Your Car Seat Today," to promote the importance of registering car seats in order to receive important safety recall notifications. The materials are available in both English and Spanish. Please visit the [website](#).

Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe Kids posted a new ThingLink tool called CAR SEAT, BOOSTER SEAT OR SEAT BELT: WHERE DOES YOUR KID FIT?

Just go to their [website](#) and click on the dots to watch quick 30-second how-to videos, and to get additional safety tips.

Safe Kids also released a new [research report](#) with information that could help answer some of the questions parents have about when to switch from a booster seat to a seat belt. They surveyed 1,000 parents of children ages 4 to 10 and found that an alarming number of parents are allowing kids to use a seat belt alone before they are big enough. In fact, 7 in 10 parents do not know that a child should be at least 57 inches (4'9") to ride in a car without a booster seat. They found that 1 in 5 parents whose children carpool say they "bend the rules" when driving, letting kids ride without seat belts and without the car seat or booster seat they would normally use.

Their [infographic](#) explains the major findings from the study.

Thank you for all your hard work during CPS week and throughout the year.

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

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

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

Program Reminders

Recertification

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

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

Avoid problems--don't delay!

Basic recertification requirements and deadlines:

- [Five seat checks](#) approved by a certified instructor (you may use the technician proxy option). You can do the checks at any time during your certification cycle as long as they are entered online and a certified instructor approves them before your recertification date.
- [Community education](#) (choose one):
 - Participation in at least one two-hour checkup event with at least one other CPS technician using any standardized checklist to provide documentation, if needed
 - Provide at least four hours of community education. Examples include making presentations to parents, educators, kids, organizations (such as PTAs or law enforcement), or other stakeholders who are not technicians.
- A minimum of six hours of [CPS technical continuing education units](#) earned and reported during a current two-year certification cycle.
 - You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required
 - Because your certification cycle stays the same, any CEUs obtained after you recertify but before the first day of your new certification cycle may not be applied to the new cycle
 - You can record CEUs at any time during your certification cycle, but they must fit into one of the five approved categories and meet content requirements.
- [Register and pay](#) the recertification fee before your certification expiration date. You can register up to 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:
 - Completed all five seat checks (entered and CPSTI approved)
 - Entered at least six CEUs
 - Entered your community event information
 - Once all three are done and you are within 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 recertification 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 is interested in your experiences with our CPS customer service. If you have contacted the customer service representatives by calling the toll-free number (877-366-8154) or by e-mailing them at cps.certification@safekids.org, please take a few minutes to complete the online survey under [Contact Us](#) on the Certification Web site.

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

Thank you for helping us improve our customer service!

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By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children in hot cars

- 2014: 27
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33

- 2010: 49

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

CPS Recertification

- 2014: 55.0 percent (January-September)
- 2013: 58.4 percent
- 2012: 54.7 percent

Auditor Alcove: Accuracy is Key

When was the last time you logged in to your Safe Kids profile? It's important to make sure the information is accurate so that you continue to receive updates and notifications. You can choose what information, if any, you make available to the public while still providing an official mailing address for correspondence from Safe Kids.

If you move, change jobs, or just need to update your information, log in at cert.safekids.org. If you don't know your username and/or password, call customer service at 877-366-8154.

Make sure that cps.certification@safekids.org is an approved sender in your email so you continue to receive emails and the CPS Express!

Submitted by Jami Revesz, CPSTI and Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Canton, OH)

Featured FAQ

[What is the Community Event?](#)

OPTION 1: Participate in a two-hour seat checkup event. Participate in a seat checkup event (or events) for a minimum of 2 hours. At least one other CPS technician must be present. You must serve families by using any standardized checklist. You are welcome to combine different checkup events or appointments to meet the time requirement of two hours.

OPTION 2: Provide at least four hours of community education to people who are not CPS technicians. Examples include speaking about child passenger safety at birthing classes, PTA or EMS/law enforcement meetings, a preschool or Head Start program, or other parenting groups and organizations. Working at a health fair where you are primarily talking about CPS also qualifies for recertification. You are welcome to combine different presentations to meet the time requirement of four hours. For example, you can do eight 30-minute education sessions or four one-hour education sessions.

Technicians may choose material from a variety of credible resources as long as it reinforces best practice. A great resource for technicians is the National CPS Board's CPS Technician Community Outreach Toolkit which can be saved or downloaded from the Safe Kids CPS Certification website. A link to this toolkit is provided through your CPS Online Profile. Just log in and click on Technician or Instructor Downloads (CPS Board) to access the toolkit online. No extra passwords necessary!

Fact or Fiction: A funnel guide, or LA guide, is used primarily for push on connectors.

FACT: When installing a car seat with push on style connectors, a funnel guide (AKA lower anchor or LA guide) may help position and guide the lower attachment connector during CR installation and do not impact crash performance. These guides may be especially helpful if the lower anchors are deep and difficult to reach in a seat bight. Some car seat manufacturers provide these guides with their seats or as an optional accessory to purchase. Some vehicle models may have optional guides to purchase at the dealership. Always use optional guides as directed by the child restraint or vehicle manufacturer.

Notes from the CPS Board: Getting to Know Your Board

Each month, learn a little about a Child Passenger Safety Board member here in the CPS Express.

Dina Morrissey (Providence, RI)
Injury Prevention/Healthcare Representative

- How long have you been a member of the Board? This is my first year (2014).
- How long have you been a technician/instructor? I have been a technician for 4 years and an instructor for 3 years.
- Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate? I decided to become a CPS advocate when I learned about the unacceptably high rate of misuse of car seats. We need to do a better job of educating parents and health care professionals about both the importance of car seats and of making sure you are using them correctly.
- Who taught your first certification course? Laurie Ludovici and Karen Pinch.
- Advice for the field: Never be afraid to admit that you don't know something. This is a rapidly changing field and you can never know everything. It is better to say you are not sure about something and you will check, than to give incorrect advice.
- What are your hobbies: I like working out, cooking, traveling and spending time with my family.
- Tell us about your family: I have three children: 22, 21 and 16. We also have 2 dogs and 2 cats.

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Making the Most of a Course: Benefits of setting up a sequential CEU session, Certification Course, and a Renewal Testing Course

All Organizing a full Certification class is often a challenge, but so can be setting up an In-Person CEU session or a Renewal Testing Course. Have you considered offering a combination of these courses for techs? When you get together with other instructors to determine a location for the Certification course, consider conducting a Renewal Testing course following the certification class because you already have the training facility and equipment. The Certification course content and skills are also fresh in your mind. Typically, a Renewal Testing course is a small group of former techs who should be ready to test. Invite those taking the Renewal Testing course to participate in a checkup event as a scribe or volunteer to refresh them about the latest technologies, the emphasis on education and the checklist.

A CEU session the day before a Certification course is a great opportunity for local techs to work with new seats while learning about new technologies and features. There may be advantages to offering a 2-3 CEU session the day following the course: your equipment is already at the facility, your instructor team is in the zone, and your new techs could take advantage of the additional education. If you are considering an update following a course, make sure the lead instructor can finalize the course before the CEU session. If possible, plan for some networking time. Introduce the new techs to the seasoned techs from their area so they can be added to contact lists and develop working relationships.

When planning the CEU session, be sure to include a variety of seats and topics. Techs often enjoy hands-on sessions that highlight new features and technologies. Consider including sessions that encourage techs to navigate the LATCH manual and various CPS resource websites. If your session is less than 6 CEUs, you can provide information on how to earn additional CEUs.

Helpful links:

- [Find A Course](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Becoming a Tech](#)
- [Renewal Testing Course](#)
- [Earning CEUs](#)
- [Providing CEUs](#)
- CPS Board - [CEU Toolkit](#)

Submitted by Jami Revesz, Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Canton, OH) and Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, FL)

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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 unless otherwise noted.

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

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

Lifesavers Conference

Location: Chicago, IL

Dates: March 15-17, 2015

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

KIDZ IN MOTION

Location: Orlando, FL

Dates: August 12-15, 2015

For more information: <http://www.kidzinmotion.org/>

Online Courses

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

Upcoming Webinars

Live Webinars

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

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

Safe Kids and State Farm present four car seat manufacturer product update webinars:

UPPAbaby

October 16, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)

[Register now](#)

Ingenuity & Safe Traffic System

October 30, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)

[Register now](#)

Clek

November 13, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)
CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)
[Register now](#)

Britax
November 20, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)
CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)
[Register now](#)

More webinars coming soon!

Mid-month updates posted on [FaceBook](#).

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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Ideas and Article Submissions

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

Send your ideas and submissions to kchausmer@safekids.org

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

Program Partners



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