



December 2014

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Training Seat - Custom-built training seats for CPS classes

Seats include a variety of seat belt systems, forward and rear facing anchor points and LATCH. Seats are mounted on an aluminum box with a locking storage compartment, 5" wheels for easy transport. For more information, contact Steve at steve@anyconcept.com or 301-960-4426 and [check out the flier](#).

Advertise with us

Learn more about [CPS Express Ad Space](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

Update your Web Browser

It seems that we read about hacking and site vulnerabilities weekly. You may recall the huge [Heartbleed](#) bug and have more recently read about the [POODLE](#) bug. To check if your browser is vulnerable, go to <https://www.poodletest.com>.

Older browsers use a form of encryption which is no longer working with most sites. Beginning next year, our site (as well as many others) will no longer support this older method.

- If your browser is **IE 8 or lower**, you need to upgrade. In your IE browser window, select Tools and then Windows Update and make sure that your machine upgrades to IE 11.
- If your browser is **Firefox 33 or lower**, you need to upgrade. Upgrade through the Firefox browser by selecting the menu button and click and then select About Firefox. It will automatically begin to update itself.
- If your browser is **Google Chrome**, you are OK.
- If you use a **Mac product**, you need to update your OS by selecting "Software Update from the Apple menu on Mavericks- or Mountain Lion-powered computers, or by opening the Mac App Store application and clicking the Update icon at the top right.

If you feel your browser is out of date and you have an IT department, please contact them for support. If you are working from home, use the above steps.

Our online partner Cyzap continually monitors our systems to assure that your data is secure. If you ever have doubts about any site's security, do not enter your credit card information. You are always welcome to call Customer Service (877-366-8154, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET) to make your credit card payments.

NHTSA Quick Facts

Need some quick stats? Check out the [NHSTA 2012 Quick Facts](#) guide for statistics about traffic fatalities and crashes. The fact sheet includes statistics on vehicle miles traveled, seat belt use, injury and fatality data, school buses and trucks, to list a few.

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

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

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

PROGRAM REMINDER

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](#) (CEUs) 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!

GENERAL | [Top](#)

By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children in hot cars

- 2014: 30
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

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

CPS Recertification

- 2014: 55.4 percent (January-November)
- 2013: 58.4 percent
- 2012: 54.7 percent

Auditor Alcove: Not just a double check: Seat checks for recertification

The recertification requirements include the completion of five sign-offs verified by a CPSTI or technician proxy. Because of this, it is important that we make ourselves available to techs when possible. In order to appropriately approve a seat check for recertification, you must be present during the entire inspection. A recertification sign-off is not a senior check. It involves so much more than checking for a tight install and properly routed harness as a caregiver is about to leave.

The primary purpose of having an instructor/technician proxy witness and verify seat checks is to observe your interaction with parents and children. Direct observation helps ensure that communication with parents is accurate and consistent with the information and methodologies in the standardized curriculum. The verifying instructor/technician proxy must feel confident in your ability to communicate accurate information to a parent or caregiver and will double-check that the installation and paperwork are correct.

Appointment-based fitting stations provide a great opportunity for sign-offs. Techs can be scheduled based on the scenarios needed. The instructor/technician proxy will have an opportunity to observe with limited distractions and interruptions. It is important that we give our full attention so that we can properly assess the communication and technical skill of the CPST.

When conducting a seat check, we use an inspection form. This helps us get from point A to point Z without forgetting B through Y. While observing a seat check for a sign-off, having a form or checklist available may help you stay focused and attentive during the inspection. You can follow along with the education and confirm that all of the key components are addressed. We can then use the form as a tool for communicating with and providing constructive feedback to the technician after the inspection.

A set of checklists for each type of installation is available for your use. Access them [here](#).

If you have an idea that would make things easier for other CPSTs or CPSTIs, please share it with us!

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

Fact of Fiction: In most cases, a pool noodle may be substituted for a rolled towel to increase the recline

of a RF CRS when needed.

FICTION: Although this is true for many manufacturers, there are others that do not permit the use of a towel or noodle. Other manufacturers may allow a rolled towel but not a pool noodle. This is the case with the Fflo convertible car seat made by Clek. [Clek advises against using pool noodles](#) because the shape of the recline foot may lead to the pool noodles not staying in position. Pool noodles shifting can lead to an unstable installation or one that may become unstable over time, so they have chosen to only allow rolled towels and only if needed for appropriate recline.

Submitted by Trudy Slaght, Clek (Toronto, Ontario)

Featured FAQ: Do you have an online store where I can buy CPS Tech merchandise?

There are a variety of CPS Tech and CPS Tech-Instructor items at <http://cert.safekids.org/store>. In addition to shirts and other tech gear, you can find information on checkup event signs and course training dolls.

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.

Allan Buchanan (Henderson, N.C.)

Past Chair

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I started on the board in 2010 as the public safety/fire/EMS representative and have had the honor over the past three years to serve in a leadership role as vice chair, chair, and now past chair of the board. During the past five years, I have had the opportunity to meet and serve with some great individuals. I truly am grateful to have had this opportunity to work with so many great CPS advocates.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I have been involved in CPS for 14 years now. In 2000, I took my CPS technician course in Fayetteville, N.C., and then became an instructor in 2001.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** As a firefighter/EMT, I saw the first-hand effects of what happens when a child is not properly restrained in a vehicle. You never forget the crash scenes involving a child who has been ejected or thrown around in the vehicle. My worst memory from a crash scene is of a 3 year old who was unrestrained and ended up wedged between the front seats on the console. After a few years, I became the fire and life safety officer for my fire department and had the opportunity to be introduced to child passenger safety in a two-day awareness course. This two-day state awareness course, taught by Linda Wiandt and Mike Whitehurst, was just the beginning. Thanks to Kelly Ransdell, with the NC Office of State Fire Marshal, I was encouraged to go take the national CPS technician course. These wonderful mentors introduced me into child passenger safety and helped me find a passion to do as much as I could in this field and, hopefully, make a difference.
- **Who taught your first certification course?** My first certification course was taught over five days during Halloween week by a great team of instructors that included Amy Curtis, Linda Wiandt, Kelly Ransdell, Wade Bulloch, and Stan McHenry. Many years later, Kelly is now my supervisor, and Linda and Stan are still very active. Thanks to all of them for giving me a great start in CPS and laying the foundation for my start in the field.
- **Advice for the field:** My best advice for instructors and technicians can be summed by a song title, "Let It Go." For instructors, let go of the old curriculum. The current curriculum is awesome and it's the only one we should be using as a reference. So throw out those old instructor manuals and stick to the curriculum we have now. For technicians, stop doing it for the parents/caregivers and get them involved. As a technician, we should not be offering "express lane" service. So let go of those old ways to simply install and send them on their way and put the focus on education. Most parents and caregivers really want to know how to do it right, we just have to make an effort to include them.
- **What are your hobbies:** Those who know me are well aware that I like to stay busy. With that said, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an amazing injury prevention team. As an injury prevention specialist with the NC Office of State Fire Marshal, I am lucky to have so many opportunities to be involved in child passenger safety. Because of all the great things that are happening in N.C., I stay extremely busy with child passenger safety/occupant protection related activities. Outside of my normal job from November to March, I usually can be found in my stripes on a basketball court, somewhere tweeting a whistle. But the one thing I enjoy the most is traveling. I love going to new destinations, both in and out of country. Whether by land, air, or sea there's always a new adventure awaiting.
- **Tell us about your family:** All of my family still lives within the same area, which includes my mom and dad, one brother and sister, and two wonderful teenage nieces (ages 14 and 17).
- **A few parting words:** As I wrap up my last few months on the board, I'd like to encourage as many as possible to be part of the board. You may wonder how to apply or be a part of the board. First, if you've never applied to be a member on the board, take the time to fill out the membership application in the spring. The board is always looking for new members from all areas of the country. Second, visit the board's [website](#) often. Updates are made on a regular basis and input is always welcomed. There are also a lot of great resources posted on the board's website, including CEU opportunities. Next, follow

the board on [Facebook](#). If you haven't liked the board's Facebook page, please take the time to like us and share our page, and don't forget about [Twitter](#) and our [YouTube](#) channel. Finally, explore who the board members are and provide input to those who represent your field of work. Input is always welcomed and we love hearing from those in the field. Lastly, I want to say a huge thank you to all the members of the board, both past and present, whom I have had the opportunity to serve with over the past five years. Words cannot express how great this experience has been for me. Most importantly thank you to my agency, North Carolina Department of Insurance/Office of State Fire Marshal and to North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program for the support provided that allowed me to be part of the National CPS Board. Without their support I would never have been able to be part of the board.

JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS

What happens if a lead instructor (LI) is not able to be present for the entire class?

Lead instructors have a lot of responsibility. They are required to be there the entire time and make sure that the course runs smoothly, giving the technician candidates the best possible course while following all the policies and procedures.

Things don't always go according to plan.

1. If you find out before class starts (or even on day one) that you will miss all or part of the course find a replacement lead ASAP. This should happen not just locally, but online. To edit the lead instructor, open the course profile and click on 3. EDIT COURSE.
2. What if you are in the middle of the course and there is an emergency? The spirit is to be sure that the course is correctly administered and led following all policies and procedures. If the LI gets temporarily called out on an emergency, they are still responsible for the course. They should appoint a seasoned instructor who is familiar with course administration as their proxy in the interim. This should be documented before leaving to ensure a smooth transition while they are out and when they return. This documentation should be complete enough to address any concerns or issues following the course and kept in your course file.

Ideally, the emergency substitute is an approved lead. Having a fellow instructor who is a lead is always a good idea. Everyone should feel confident that the course will be managed appropriately. The lead is still 100 percent responsible for managing and running course.

Emergencies are a perfect topic for the mandatory pre-course meeting. We often focus on student emergencies or weather emergencies, but instructor team emergencies also happen. Mentoring instructors on course management and policies is always a good idea.

Should an emergency arise that necessitates the lead leaving the facility, and there are any questions, they should e-mail Safe Kids without delay. **This is for any instructor on the team.** Ask questions! Everyone on the instructor team has a responsibility to ensure that courses are run appropriately. Courses are truly team efforts!

More on [course administration](#) and the [policies and procedures manual](#) at available on our [website](#).

Just For Instructors: Thank You

Our thanks to all instructors. Your passion and knowledge make a difference. We're sure many of you have received emails or letters through the years from someone who just completed a certification class and has expressed their appreciation for your dedication and hard work.

Here is an e-mail from new technician Jorge Perez (Ft. Myers, Fla.) that reminded me that what we do as instructors inspires people to share our passion and knowledge to save lives in their communities:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you.

When I first received the email about anyone at my fire department being interested in what they called "a car seat class", I must admit, I was a bit hesitant. I was told that I would be in class for 30+ hours. I could not, for the life of me, understand what someone could possibly teach me about a car seat that I didn't already know. I have 4 children. I'm thinking I could teach the class. I, along with most of my crew, thought the same. Well, I decided to take the class anyways.

Little did I know, that I was about to embark in a life changing experience.

First, I've never met instructors, like this team, that were so dedicated and cared so much for what CPS stood for. Quickly I realized that this wasn't just some "car seat class". This was a class about everything Child Passenger Safety, being taught by individuals who are passionate about CPS.

All I can say is that I would recommend this class to everyone that I know. I have 4 children and realized that I knew nothing about

nothing. I realized that I was fortunate to never have been in a vehicle accident with my children in it. I am now a certified CPS technician and can't wait to get started.

I thank all of you for your knowledge, dedication, and patience with the class.

For many instructors, having the opportunity to help technicians return to their communities and use their new skills to help families is reward enough. Instructors who share their experience and passion by teaching CPS courses give a life skill or a gift that keeps giving to save children's lives.

Thank you for all you do very day to keep kids safe on the road.

Thank you for caring so much that you spend countless hours preparing for courses, educating technician candidates and instilling in them the appreciation of how families can travel safely.

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, Fla.)

CPS Courses: Giving and Receiving Gifts After offering a perfect gift to someone I care about, anticipation swells as I eagerly await the gift's opening. I am hopeful that the receiver will love the gift as much as I do. This reflection reminds me of times I stand before a classroom filled with anxious learners ready to complete the national child passenger safety technician certification course. They are apprehensive, and I am nervous as I realize the challenge I have to present them with one of the gifts that I love and treasure most ... knowledge.

As an instructor, preparation to give this gift can be grueling. It is physically and mentally taxing, but it is also one of the most rewarding things I do. Taking time to study and understand the curriculum to be taught constantly opens my eyes to new notions and details that I may not have appreciated before. I am persistently thinking of ways to "wrap" the material so that it will "pop" for the learner. Feeling well prepared when I stand before a thirsty classroom of students gives me peace of mind and excitement for what is about to take place. I know that there will be some amazing transformations as the gift is presented and that the receiver of the gift will speedily become part of a family that feels deep commitment to keeping children safe.

Perhaps the things I like most about the gifts I provide as an instructor are the relationships that ripen during the course. The comradery among all of the instructors is encouraging and I know that I can count on any one of them to help when needed. Then there are the students in the course that are depending on me and the other instructors to teach them, guide them, and assist them to fully receive the gift. I have made friends all over the state and we all look forward to reconnecting at checkup events and other CPS activities across the state.

So in giving a gift it ends up that I actually receive a wonderful gift and the anticipation I once had turns to fulfillment. I can't wait to teach another CPS certification course!

Submitted by Janet Brooks, Primary Children's Hospital (Salt Lake City, Utah)

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 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, Ill.

Dates: March 15-17, 2015

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Location: Orlando, Fla.

Dates: August 12-15, 2014

[2015 Maine Child Passenger Safety Conference](#)

Location: South Portland, Maine
Dates: September 13-15, 2015

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:

Graco

December 11, 2014 from 2 - 3 pm ET
CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)
[Register now](#)

Child Seat Manufacturer Fall Update-Part One

Wed, Jan 14, 2015 2-3 p.m. ET
CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)
[Register](#)

Child Seat Manufacturer Fall Update-Part Two

Wed, Jan 28, 2015 2-3 p.m. PM ET
CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)
[Register](#)

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



Program Sponsor



[The National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program](#)

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