

We don't want you to miss out on the latest edition of the **CPS Express!**
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CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



June 2014

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CPS 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 [FLYER](#).

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Announcements and Notices

CPST Month Success

A very special THANK YOU to all the CPST Instructors who taught a Certification Course in May. Each of you (must be on the official instructor team listed in the course profile) will all be sent special CPST Month lapel pins (provided to Lead Instructors later this month). You taught a whopping 91 courses resulting in over 1200 new technicians!

We randomly picked out one course from each week to win a \$50 gift card. The Lead Instructors will be mailed the cards this week. The winners are:

- Week 1: KS20131028944 (Lead Instructor: Tim McCool)
- Week 2: IL20140220186 (Lead Instructor: Thelma Kuska)
- Week 3: NY20140417426 (Lead Instructor: Cynthia Dort)
- Week 4: CO2014012073 (Lead Instructor: Vera Fullaway)

One course Instructor team won polo shirts, courtesy of [KS Image Solutions](#). Congratulations, GA20140307247 (Lead Instructor: Deborah Straight) Instructors!

2015!

Planning A CPS Conference?

When scheduling your conference, please check the National-Regional-State CPS Conference calendar located under [Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety](#) (MACPS) for any potential conflicts with other events already scheduled.

You will also find the MACPS (Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety) contact list for your convenience when inviting car seat manufacturers to your events. We encourage you to select dates and reach out to us as early as possible using the [Manufacturer Speaker/Exhibitor Request Form](#). 2015 dates are already being selected.

To have your conference dates included on this calendar email info@saferideneews.com with the date, location, and contact info.

Submitted by Sarah Tilton, Vice Chair of the Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (Ft. Mill, SC)

Congratulations to the 2014 Technician and Instructor of the Year

CPS Instructor of the Year: Jennifer Hoekstra from Grand Rapids, MI

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to honor Jennifer Hoekstra, coordinator for the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Injury Prevention Program, as the 2014 Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year. Hokestra is a technician-instructor who has been dedicated to injury prevention for the past seven years. Hoekstra's program has 89 car seat programs planned for 2014 in addition to 30 classes and more than 15 presentations serving social service agencies within the local area. Active in committees throughout Michigan, Hoekstra enjoys presenting the NHTSA curriculum and takes pride in sharing life-saving and injury prevention messages within her community as a subject matter expert on the local as well as national levels.

CPS Technician of the Year: Brian Cooper from Carol Stream, IL

Part of the Traffic Safety Unit for the Carol Stream Police Department, Sgt. Brian Cooper started checking child passenger safety seats after becoming a Traffic Safety Officer in 2005. In 2009, Cooper was promoted to the rank of sergeant and assigned to the Patrol Division as a night shift supervisor. In 2010, he was reassigned back to the Traffic Safety Unit as supervisor. He was sworn in as a police officer in 1999 and was assigned to patrol for 6 years. Prior to 2005, Cooper was in the United States Navy for four years where he earned two Navy Achievement Medals and the rank of Second Class Petty Officer (E5). Throughout the years, Cooper has noticed a decline in child passenger safety outreach by other agencies. As a result, he fields calls for parents wanting their seats checked and personally performs the checks himself or with the help of other technicians.

>> [Read more](#) <<

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

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

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

Recertification

Recertification Reminder

- o Recertification FAQs >> [Learn More](#)

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:

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 recertification date.
2. [Community education](#) (choose one):
 - o 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
 - o 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.
 - o You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required
 - o 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
 - o 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.
4. [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 left in hot cars

- 2014: 7
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

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

CPS Recertification

- 2014: 54.1 percent (January-May)
- 2013: 58.4 percent
- 2012: 54.7 percent

Auditor Alcove: Purging and Merging

I have been a CPST since 2003 and an instructor since 2006. Over the years, I have accumulated stacks of educational pamphlets, teaching materials, manuals, equipment, and yes, I have a storage unit full of car seats for training. With the curriculum update, I was forced to actually go through the stacks of paperwork and recycle all of the outdated stuff. It was liberating. There was actually empty space on a shelf!

June is here, which means that CPS season is in full gear. Lots of seat checks, courses, and events. Every time I teach a certification course, I purge. I organize. I repack in a logical way. After my next course, I will be moving out of state. I will need to do inventory. I am moving in with my girlfriend who is also a CPSTI and probably has more CPS stuff than I do! Combining training kits is going to be just as liberating! I can use this as an opportunity to check labels so I can get rid of anything expired.

When we teach, it is important to make sure we are using equipment that is not outdated or expired. That t-shield you have in your kit? Probably safe to ditch it. We educate caregivers to check expiration dates and we should do the same.

Submitted by Jami Revesz, CPSTI and Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Trenton, MI)

Featured FAQ: [How do I get a copy of the most recent version of the manual?](#)

Existing technicians (anyone) can download, view or print content from the latest edition of the participant manual (3/2014) at from the National Child Passenger Board's [website](#). If you would prefer to buy a printed manual, individual copies are available for \$20 each from the [Safety Restraint Coalition](#) a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The price includes shipping via Priority Mail from the United States Postal Service.

Please contact 425-828-8975 or e-mail office@800BUCKLUP.org for bulk orders, shipping costs for orders outside the continental U.S. or for more information. Proceeds will support Washington's child passenger safety programs.

Need a CEU? Here are 3 scientific articles you can use

Did you know you can earn 1 CEU each certification cycle by reading (and saving) 3 scientific articles? More details are in the [Policies and Procedures manual](#) on page R-9.

A list of example articles (peer-reviewed, scientific journals and meet technical content requirements) is posted [online](#).

The [Tech Update](#), provided by the CPS Board and NHTSA is being discontinued so the Board is providing links to three full-content articles for your convenience:

- [Disparities in Age-Appropriate Child Passenger Restraint Use Among Children Aged 1-12 Years](#)
- [Grandparents Driving Grandchildren: An Evaluation of Child Passenger Safety and Injuries](#)
- [Motor-vehicle crashes during pregnancy: A retrospective cohort study](#)

Submitted by the Certification/Recertification Committee, National Child Passenger Safety Board

Seat Checks: Options and Responsibilities

There are at least three ways to fulfill your 5 required car seat installations for recertification. The ideal option is the in-person setting when you and an instructor or technician proxy are together and you are able to demonstrate your skills right there. In this case you are watched as you demonstrate your communication and installation skills. Instructors and technician proxies have two other options (Mock Seat Checks and Videos) if an actual checkup event cannot occur. For example, bad weather has forced a scheduled event to be cancelled or a technician lives far away from an instructor/proxy. Instructors/proxies are never required to take advantage of the options but many do to keep their technicians working and active. Technicians must recertify every two years using one of the approved settings.

Mock Seat Checks: What if I attend a series of events and can't finish my seat checks? Can I set up a fake check?

Allowing a mock seat check is allowed if the Instructor or Technician Proxy is comfortable using the option. It is important that you talk with each other to be sure you are on the same page in terms of expectations. Real or mock, an actual vehicle must always be used for seat checks.

The following guidelines were approved by the Certification/Recertification committee of the National CPS Board:

- During a seat check, it is always best to have the child present.
- Instructors and technicians are strongly encouraged to make every effort to do an actual safety seat checkup.
- If an actual caregiver is not available, the instructor or technician proxy may choose a mock scenario, where a colleague acts out the part of the parent.

It is strongly encouraged that instructor/tech proxy verification of required seat check activity be completed on an ongoing basis throughout your certification cycle, rather waiting until near your certification expiration date. As during actual seat checks, the primary purpose the verifying instructor or technician proxy must feel confident in your ability to communicate accurate information to a parent or caregiver and double-check that the installation and paperwork are correct.

More information on seat checks for recertification is available [online](#).

Videos: I live in a remote area and it's hard to meet with instructors for my seat check sign offs. Could we do a video call?

If you are not able to go to an instructor and they are not able to meet with you, consider a FaceTime or Skype-type video call. This option is available and depends on the comfort level of the instructor. Like face to face seat checks, you could complete a series of mock or real checks. Have a colleague hold the phone or camera so you (and the caregiver) can be seen and heard by the instructor. When the seat check is done, you and the instructor would discuss the seat check in real time.

The instructor may have additional requirements beyond one seat check of each type (extra questions, maybe extra seat checks) so be sure to talk about expectations in advance.

Try a practice check first to go through the technical issues and to assure that you and the instructor are on the same page in terms of expectations and requirements.

Recently, I was able to use both options to help a lone CPST who lives in Japan complete his seat checks. The first step was communication. It is critical that we be on the same page in terms of expectations. Since his seat checks are done in Japanese,

available so he recorded a series of mock checks where he explained what he was looking for, correct use and messages for the caregiver. He also went over his checklist. Using a file sharing service (like Dropbox or Google Drive), I was able to download the videos. We scheduled a call to discuss each seat check so I could ask as many questions as I wanted in order to feel comfortable signing them off. After our call, I was completely comfortable approving his seat checks.

Whether you are working at a real event, using a mock scenario, video conference or videos, it is imperative that the instructor/proxy and technician have similar expectations. This was an extreme example where we utilized all available options. When I am working an event with a technician, we talk beforehand so they know what I am looking for in order to feel comfortable signing them off. If I haven't worked with someone before, it may be several seat checks before we have an "official" seat check for recertification.

When an instructor/proxy approves a seat check, their certification is on the line so they must feel 100% confident in the technical and communication skills of the technician they are working with.

Read more [Seat Check FAQs](#) and [Seat Checks Me and You](#).

Submitted by Kerry Chausmer, Safe Kids Worldwide (Washington, DC)

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.

Carol Meidinger (Bismarck, ND)
Child Passenger Safety Advocate

- **How long have you been a member of the Board?** I have been on the Board since January 2013.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I became a technician in June 1997 and an instructor in April 1998.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** In 1979, I was sent to a National Child Passenger Safety Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, following their passage of the first child restraint law in the nation. I remember being absolutely horrified when I saw the crash footage of infants being thrown into the windshield and toddlers ejected from the back of a station wagon. I pictured these dummies as children in my circle of family and friends and decided that something needed to be done in my state to make people aware of how dangerous it was for children to ride unrestrained.
- **Who taught your first certification course?** Judy Hammond from NHTSA was the lead instructor for the technician course, taught in Denver. My instructorship was done in Montana with Randall Townley and Greg Hartmann as my evaluators.
- **Advice for the field:** It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day issues related to misuse of car seats, but I try to remember the big picture – prevention of child deaths and injuries. We often get caught up in data, which is important for policy, funding, evaluation, etc., but I keep a note by my desk that simply says, "Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped away." It reminds me why CPS is so important...
- **What are your hobbies:** I enjoy gardening, reading and quilting. I spend a considerable amount of time attending school concerts and sporting activities for grandchildren and nieces/nephews.
- **Tell us about your family:** I am married to Wes, who is retired from the ND Highway Patrol, so we both have an interest in traffic safety. We have some interesting discussions about crashes, traffic laws and human behavior.

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Course Community Resource Sheet - A jump start!

Safe Ride News Publications has developed a free resource guide that has been specially designed for use in CPS certification courses. It contains descriptions and contact information for many major national CPS organizations, and also provides space for instructors to fill in the local resources that the revised curriculum specifies must be provided to course participants. Although the form is made to be ideal for use by instructors teaching certification courses, current techs are encouraged to use it, too.

Find the guide at www.saferidenews.com under "CPSTs/Professionals." For optimal formatting, SRN recommends that you download the PDF to your own computer first, and then open it to fill in the local information.

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](#).

Online Courses

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

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

Kidz in Motion

Location: Santa Ana Pueblo (Albuquerque), NM

Dates: August 25-18, 2014

For more information: www.kidzinmotion.org

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](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Safe Kids and State Farm present: CR Manufacturer Product Update: Cybex

June 11, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

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

Register now: <http://bit.ly/June11Cybex>

More webinars coming soon! Mid-month updates posted at www.Facebook.com/CPScert

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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