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CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



August 2014

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Announcements and Notices

Coming Soon - Nominations for the 2015 National Child Passenger Safety Technician and Instructor of the Year

We all work with passionate, committed CPS Technicians and Instructors all year long. Each year, the National Child Passenger Safety Board recognizes one outstanding Technician and Instructor as the National Technician and Instructor of the Year. In addition to the national recognition, AAA will present a \$500 cash award to the honorees.

Honor your exceptional colleagues by nominating them for the 2015 National CPS Tech or Instructor of the year. The nomination process has been simplified this year. Just tell us who you think should be honored and why. The Board will then notify all eligible nominees and send them an application for the award.

The nomination period will be September 1, 2014 through October 10, 2014. Look for an announcement in next month's CPS Express with a link to the nomination form. In the meantime, start thinking about those deserving CPS Professionals who should be nominated.

For information, guidelines and eligibility go to 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)

Inflatable Seat Belt Update

CPS Technicians may see inflatable vehicle shoulder belts in some Ford, Lincoln and Mercedes Benz vehicles. Like many innovative technologies that provide additional safety for adults, there may be an impact on child passengers.

What are they? You can see how they work in these videos from [Ford](#) and [Mercedes Benz](#) and read about them in the 2014 [Technician Guide](#) starting on page 5-6.

Child Restraint Manufacturers have developed policies regarding using their products with inflatable seat belts.

>> [2014 Inflatable Seat Belt Policy](#) <<

Although there are few changes and additional manufacturers listed, manufacturers continue to assess inflatable seat belt compatibility with their products and will update recommendations and revise statements as new data becomes available.

As always, the manufacturers provide the bottom line. Always read and follow their directions. Since any list may become outdated, the best source of information is to contact the [manufacturer](#) for the most up to date information.

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

NHTSA Statement on Takata Air Bag Inflator Recall

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration received notification from BMW, Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Mazda, Nissan and Toyota that they are conducting limited regional recalls to address a possible safety defect involving Takata brand air bag inflators.

Today's action is influenced by a NHTSA investigation into six reports of air bag inflator ruptures, all of which occurred in Florida and Puerto Rico.

Based on the limited data available at this time, NHTSA supports efforts by automakers to address the immediate risk in areas that have consistently hot, humid conditions over extended periods of time.

Consumers impacted by the recalls should have their vehicles serviced promptly once they receive notification from their vehicle manufacturer. NHTSA remains in close communication with the supplier and automakers to gather additional data and will take appropriate action based on our findings.

>> [READ MORE](#) <<

New NHTSA Fact Sheet: 2012 Traffic Safety Fact Sheet State Traffic Data

Traffic fatalities increased by over 3 percent from 2011 to 2012 for the U.S. as a whole reports NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA). There were 33,561 fatalities in the United States. Thirty-seven States showed increases in fatalities from 2011 to 2012, ranging from less than 1 percent to as much as 44 percent.

>> [READ MORE](#) <<

Special Emphases Added for CPS Week 2014

During Child Passenger Safety Week this year, in addition to continuing to stress the vital importance of car seat inspections and hands-on education, NHTSA will be calling on the Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician community to make a special effort to emphasize two key messages in their many interactions with parents and caregivers:

- The agency is undertaking a concerted effort to spur increased registration of car seats. According to NHTSA and car seat manufacturers, far too few are seats are registered, exposing children to heightened risk in the event of a recall. CPS Technicians and other advocates are in a key position to remind consumers of the importance of registration – which is quick, free and readily accessible electronically.
- In addition, data show that in spite of great progress made in recent years in ensuring that children ride in the back seat -- which is the safest place for them – on average, more than 100 children in the 8-14 age group die in crashes each year while riding in the front seat. We will be asking CPS Technicians to make a point of reminding parents that all kids under age 13 should ride in the back seat.

You can access many tools and resources on the CPS Week 2014 [website](#).

Submitted by Sandy Sinclair, NHTSA (Washington, DC)

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

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

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

Recertification

Recertification Reminder

- Recertification Details >> [Learn More](#)
- 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):
 - 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.

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: 19
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

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

CPS Recertification

- 2014: 55.3 percent (January-July)
- 2013: 58.4 percent
- 2012: 54.7 percent

Facing Backward, Looking Ahead

A couple of weeks before the CPS training class my wife and I decided it was time to move our 1 ½ year old son, Zachary, from his rear-facing infant child seat to a forward facing one.

He reached the 35 pound rear facing weight limit of the infant seat and we knew we had to move him into another seat. The training course explained it would be safer for him to transition into a rear facing convertible seat. I was convinced after viewing the charts showing relative size of a child's head compared to body and how fragile the spine is with the relatively large head of a typical child. Zachary would be even more susceptible to injury with his 97th percentile head on his 50th percentile body. It was clear to me that I should move him from his forward facing seat into a rearward facing convertible seat for his safety.

My 2 other children Jacob and Katelyn are in child seats as well, I made some changes to the installation of the 3 seats in each of our 3 vehicles as well (9 seats total). I feel much better knowing that I have done as much as possible to ensure my children are as safe as possible on the road.

I am now using what I have learned from the child seat safety class to help make child seat installation a more straight forward experience in our Chrysler products. This is something that can benefit every parent of young children who own our vehicles. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to impact so many families in such a positive way.

Submitted by Jason Bond, Chrysler LLC (Auburn Hills, MI)

Auditor Alcove: My employer can't pay for me to attend a conference. How can I easily earn or provide CEUs?

Many agencies do not have budgets for large conferences, travel, and time off for CPSTs to earn their CEUs. Luckily, there are several options available to those who wish to recertify on a tight budget or even none at all. CEUs do not have to be earned at in-person sessions or workshops. There are several online/web sessions (category 4) that can be completed at your convenience. Some of these can even be presented to a group for category 1 in-person session/workshop CEUs.

To qualify for a category 1 CEU, the session must meet the CEU content requirements and follow an agenda. There are downloads available for those who wish to offer a group presentation, or, if you wish, you may develop your own and have it pre-approved. CEU pre-approval is optional but helpful in the event a tech is audited and to promote your class. If you develop your own presentation, you can also earn 1.5 CEUs for each hour developed and presented. The presenter of a CEU session does not have to be a CPST or CPSTI. The only requirement is that the person providing the session must be knowledgeable and provide a technically correct workshop.

Take the lead and offer a local update! You can use existing presentations and facilitate discussion after viewing a video or showing a presentation. For example, the National CPS Board has presentations available for download (the PDFs are formatted to look like PPT slides) or viewing (make sure you have a good internet connection and show the YouTube videos) at www.cpsboard.org.

CPSTs may also present material from technical conferences with permission from the author. If one person from your agency is attending a conference, they can bring back information and present it to the rest of the agency for

CEUs.

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

Featured FAQ: [If I fail a seat check, does it mean I'm no longer a tech and can't recertify?](#)

Not necessarily. If a technician or instructor fails a seat check they still have an opportunity to have that instructor or a different instructor observe their skills another time before their certification expiration date. You can enter as many seat checks as you like but only the 5, one of each type, is required for recertification. If a technician or instructor fails an installation the observing instructor or tech proxy should explain where they were deficient or why this is not a correct seat install. All five installations must be passed in order to recertify, in addition to the community event and 6 CEUs.

It is also important that when you are attending an event and need to have seats signed off that you contact the event coordinator ahead of time to be sure that an instructor or tech proxy (TP) will be there and available. This provides an opportunity for the instructor/TP and technician to understand what is expected during the seat check, including evaluating the installation, and the communication and technical skills. Techs should be sure to keep the name of the instructor/TP so that they may submit the name of the instructor/TP properly. Submitting an incorrect name will result in being marked as failed because it was the wrong instructor.

Read more about [Seat Checks for Recertification](#).

Fact or Fiction: On average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle.

FACT: Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths for children. Details on each heat-related death in a vehicle are available [online](#) from and tips and resources are available from [Safe Kids Worldwide](#) and [NHTSA](#).

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.

Jennifer Huebner Davidson (Washington, DC)
AAA Representative, Chair of the Curriculum Committee

- **How long have you been a member of the Board?** I have been fortunate enough to be on the Board for three years now.
 - **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I worked at AAA, the original Certifying Body for the program so I was fortunate to start on the ground floor. I became an instructor in 2000.
 - **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** CPS is a proactive way to help make a difference and save children's lives.
 - **Who taught your first certification course?** Susan Hulcher with the Orange County, FL Sheriff's Office.
 - **Advice for the field:** The field changes constantly. New vehicles, new car seats and new recommendations can be introduced at any time.
 - **What are your hobbies:** Spending time with my family and friends, painting, photography, running, cycling and traveling.
 - **Tell us about your family:** I am the mom of two amazing boys who are my world and will forever ride in boosters! I'm not kidding! They are 7 and 11 and only at the 15th percentile for height and weight.
-

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Certification Course Continuing Education Options

Technician Candidates who are health educators or nurses have an opportunity to earn continuing education units for completing the full Certification Course.

Certified Health Education Specialists can earn credits from the [National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.](#) To earn the credits, they must complete and submit the application within 30 days of completing the course. >> [READ MORE](#) <<

Nurses can earn credits from the Emergency Nurses Association. The Lead Instructor must complete and submit a [series of forms](#) before the course. >> [READ MORE](#) <<

Curriculum Feedback Form Update

The Curriculum Feedback Form has a new home. Please delete any old bookmarks and share your ideas and suggestions [here](#).

Non-CEU Course Management Webinars for Instructors

Hands-on Skills During a Certification Course

August 21, 2014 2 pm - 2:30 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 0

Register now: <http://bit.ly/Aug21-Skills>

Skills Assessments During a Certification Course

September 4, 2014 2 pm - 2:30 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 0

Register now: <http://bit.ly/Sept4-SKILL-Assess>

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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](#).

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 25-28, 2014

For more information: www.kidzinmotion.org

Lifesavers Conference

Location: Chicago, IL

Dates: March 15-17, 2015

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

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: 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](#)

Safe Kids and State Farm present: CR Manufacturer Product Update: KidsII & 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](#)

Safe Kids and State Farm present: CR Manufacturer Product Update: 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](#)

Safe Kids and State Farm present: CR Manufacturer New Product Update: 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 at www.Facebook.com/CPScert

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.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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