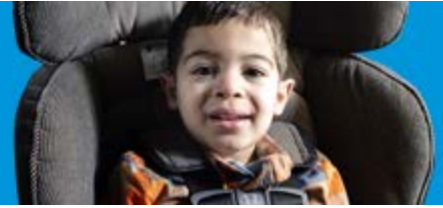


We don't want you to miss out on the latest edition of the **CPS Express!**  
Please add [cps.certification@safekids.org](mailto:cps.certification@safekids.org) to your address book or safe list today.

When was the last time you checked the information in your CPS online profile?  
Please do it now! This newsletter is available as a [PDF](#)

# CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



September 2014

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

### Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 CPS Technician and Instructor of the Year

Do you know an outstanding Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor?

You have probably seen their contributions to CPS throughout the year. Tell us about their extraordinary dedication to Child Passenger Safety by nominating them for the annual Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor of the Year award. The National Child Passenger Safety Board annually presents these awards to honor the men and women who dedicate their time and skills to ensure our nation's children are transported safely.

The nomination period will be September 1, 2014 through October 10, 2014. The Board will then notify all eligible nominees and send them an application for the award. Applications from the nominees will be accepted from October 10, 2014 through November 30, 2014.

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 CEU Site Coming Soon

The SafeKidsWebinars.org site is down while we work on moving to an improved system. We'll be sure to update you when the new site is up and running.

There are still many opportunities to earn online CPS CEUs. In addition to a number of [live webinars](#) (coming up you will hear from UPPAbaby, Ingenuity, Safe Traffic System, Clek and Britax), you can earn CEUs at home when it is convenient for you. There are many sites listed [online](#), including webinars from the CPS Board and online learning from car seat manufacturers.

Quick tip: [Log into your online profile](#) and click on Online CEUs for easy access.

We thank you for your patience as we build a better site for you.

### LPE - Taking it to the Streets

Join Safe Kids for a webinar on September 24 at 2 pm ET to learn how to utilize Learn, Practice, Explain in your education. The concepts presented can be used while educating caregivers during an inspection as well as in a CPS Certification Course. Join us for tips and tricks for educating curbside and will be able to implement these ideas in their inspections and courses.

This webinar is not eligible for CPS CEUs as it will not include much new technical content.

[Register today.](#)

## And the Survey Says...

In response to a request in the May Express, 5,438 techs completed a survey. Of the respondents, 4,856 (89 percent) were technicians and 582 (11 percent) were instructors. We heard from techs in all 50 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

### Highlights of the survey:

- Reading the CPS Express e-newsletters, accessing the Safe Kids website and attending technical updates or conferences are how most techs/instructors keep current in CPS information.
- One-third would like to have online webinars/information on new makes and models of car seats while just under one-quarter want information on the latest research on CPS and new vehicle engineering pertaining to occupant protection.
- The primary reason techs and instructors visit the CPS Board website is to earn CEUs (41 percent) and to read the Tech Update newsletter (34 percent).
- Almost two-thirds are on Facebook but most don't go to the [CPSB Facebook page](#).
- Just under half are signed up to get email alerts and updates from the CPS Board.

We all know how dedicated the CPS community is in promoting child passenger safety so it is not surprising to learn that half of the instructors are not paid for teaching and over half receive reimbursement for course materials, transportation, meals and lodging.

[Read More](#)

*Submitted by Thelma Kuska, Certification/Recertification Committee Member, At-Large Representative (Palos Heights, IL)*

## NHTSA Reminder About Special CPS Week Messaging

During Child Passenger Safety Week this year, NHTSA is calling on the CPS Technician community to make a special effort to emphasize two key messages in their many interactions with parents and caregivers:

- NHTSA is undertaking a concerted effort to spur increased registration of car seats due to very low registration rates. CPS Technicians and other advocates are in a key position to remind consumers of the importance of car seat registration; it's quick, free and readily accessible electronically. Consumer information materials on car seat registration are available [online](#).
- In addition, data show that 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 children 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)*

## New Reports from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA)

[State Data System Crash Data Report: 2000 - 2009](#) (DOT HS 812 052)

Since the early 1980s, NHTSA has been obtaining, from various States, computer data files coded from police crash reports. NHTSA refers to the collection of these computerized State data files as the State Data System (SDS). The SDS is maintained by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis. Currently, there are 34 States participating in SDS: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

This report presents descriptive statistics summarizing motor vehicle traffic crashes that occurred from 2000 to 2009 in the SDS. The States' crash data files are unique, contain large amounts of information, and are used by NHTSA analysts for a broad range of motor vehicle traffic crash research and reports and in the development of U.S. DOT regulation and policy.

[Traffic Safety Fact Sheet "Rural/Urban Comparison"](#) (DOT HS 812 050)

This fact sheet contains statistics on motor vehicle fatal crashes based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Rural and urban boundaries are determined by the State highway departments and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). In 2012, there were 30,800 fatal crashes resulting in 33,561 fatalities. Rural areas accounted for 53 percent (16,443) of the fatal crashes and 54 percent (18,170) of the fatalities as compared to urban areas that accounted for 46 percent (14,263) of the fatal crashes and 46 percent (15,296) of the fatalities.

## Car Seat Use With Inflatable Seat Belts: Summary Updated

A link was corrected and a reference to the [LATCH weight limit document](#) on the CPS Board website was added.

[Car Seat Manufacturer Inflatable Belt Update 8/2014](#)

## Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 4/2014) - Only minor formatting update.

## PROGRAM REMINDERS | [Top](#)

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

## 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](mailto: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: 24
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

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

#### CPS Recertification

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

## Auditor Alcove: Using Existing Presentations to Offer CEUs Locally

Did you know you can use online presentations to provide CEUs? No need to reinvent the wheel!

The first step is easy: Decide you want to offer CEUs locally.

The next step is to find quality pre-recorded sessions or videos. There are several recorded webinars available to CPSTs for CEUs. These can be found at [cpsboard.org](http://cpsboard.org), as well as manufacturer websites that may be accessed through your Safe Kids online profile. These webinars were developed for individuals to earn CEUs but you can use them locally!

Make it even easier for your local techs and submit the update for [preapproved CEUs](#). This step is not required but it makes it easier if they are selected for a CEU audit. See the FAQ: [Is there an advantage of providing a pre-approved CEU?](#)

The last step is to offer the update. Be sure you have internet access to watch the videos, keep a sign-in sheet and provide proof of attendance to the techs. Group discussion is a key component to this type of CEU. It is important that you are familiar with the topic in order to lead the discussion, answer questions appropriately or know where to refer participants for clarification.

These updates can be provided to local technicians in a variety of ways. They can be added to existing meetings, presented to

CPSTs prior to a seat check event or scheduled fitting station, or can be offered as a stand-alone session.

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

## Request to Bilingual Techs: Share your ideas to help new students!

Are you a bilingual technician who has something to share about your experience in the certification class? Did you struggle with any part of the course or was it a breeze? What was done that helped you succeed? What was done that was not so great? Was there something that could have been done or provided but was not offered?

The CPS Express is looking for tips you have to help bi-lingual technician candidates as they come to class. Instructors are also ready for some new ideas to use during hands-on activities and skills testing, written testing, using the technician guide and classroom management. We bet that you might also have some ideas for recruiting other key people from your community so that more families are served and kids protected. Help us out. Share your ideas. The best five ideas will be promoted in the Express and prizes will be awarded.

Please contact Kim Herrmann at [kherrmann@safekids.org](mailto:kherrmann@safekids.org) to share your ideas and get in line to win a prize!

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

## Children in RVs

*The following article originally appeared in Safe Ride News. Other information on safe travel with kids, including airplane and taxis, can be found at [www.saferidenews.com](http://www.saferidenews.com) (under Safety Topics).*

Does this sound familiar? "We are planning to take the family on a big cross-country tour this summer and figure it would make sense to rent an RV for this adventure..."

Often, even parents who normally are careful to use a CR for their children for every ride imagine that the interior of a recreational vehicle (RV, or motor home) is somehow a magical zone where the laws of physics do not apply. Caregivers need to know that an RV may not be safe for children. Children still need to be buckled up appropriately any time they are riding in a vehicle, and this can be a real challenge in an RV. RVs come in a range of style classes (A, B, C, C+, etc.) and, although these do vary in appropriateness for families, none is ideal.

People reason that bigger vehicles tend to withstand crash forces better, and this may lull some RVers into a false sense of security. However, bigger isn't actually safer when it comes to RVs. Unlike school buses, which must meet the strict structural standards of several FMVSSs, RVs are not subject to school bus standards, nor do many of the crashworthiness standards governing cars apply. Because of this and design features that may include seams in the sides for things like galley slide-outs, an RV's size may not translate to superior structural soundness.

In addition, although seat belts are sometimes present in the living areas, the anchorages for these are not required to comply with FMVSS 208. In some cases, the belts are just anchored to a piece of board! Also, LATCH anchors are not required. Parents also must know that CRs should never be installed on rearward- or side-facing vehicle seats, further limiting options. And the problem of loose objects causing injury can be a greater concern aboard a traveling motel room. Even "built-in" cabinets have been known to come loose due to the force of a crash.

### **Consider these safety tips if considering traveling in an RV with children:**

- Be sure that children always ride properly in a child safety seat and that all occupants stay buckled up whenever the vehicle is moving.
- Check in the cab of an RV for seating positions that are appropriate for car seat installation. This is most likely to be an option in the smaller Class B and C RVs, since these are built on a regular van/truck chassis and therefore seating in the cab must meet the same safety standards as passenger vehicles.
- Since a car seat is more likely to fit safely in a regular passenger vehicle, consider using one to tow a trailer rather than using an RV.
- If you plan to tow a car behind an RV for local jaunts, consider driving this vehicle instead, with children properly buckled up inside.

*Submitted by Denise Donaldson, Safe Ride News (Woodinville, WA)*

## Featured FAQ

### [What are the latest versions of the instructor materials for the Certification and Renewal Testing Courses?](#)

The standardized courses were updated in early 2014.

- Certification Course - 3/2014; Assessments updated 8/2014.
- Renewal Testing Course- 3/2014; Assessments updated 8/2014.

Both courses are on the same DVD.

Updates may be found on the [CPS Board website](#).

The Technician Guide is available for [download](#).

## Fact or Fiction: Over 130,000 people have been CPSTs.

**FACT:** Since the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program began in 1998, over 131,000 people have been certified technicians, including over 37,000 currently certified.

## 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.

Dave Sander (Miamisburg, OH)  
Child Restraint Manufacturer Representative

- How long have you been a member of the Board? I just joined the Board earlier this year, in January.
- How long have you been a technician/instructor? I have been a Tech since 2006 and an Instructor since 2011.
- Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate? I decided to become an advocate as a result of working at Evenflo, and realized I might have the privilege of making a difference in children's lives.
- Who taught your first certification course? Linda White, Donna Laake and Susan Laurence from Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Advice for the field: To remember that all of us are educators and not experts no matter how long we may have been in the field as we should never stop learning. It's our job as educators to teach the parents or care givers about proper use and recommendations. We should not be telling them what they need or have to do and ultimately they must make the final decision when it comes to their child's safety.
- What are your hobbies: I love to travel with my family because travel is the only thing that you pay for that makes you richer. I am an avid paintball player and try to get out as often as I can. I am a gear head and enjoy working on my mustang as well as getting it on the road course testing the limits (yes, it has a 5-point harness). I love working with my hands and building possibly anything I possibly can from my daughters beds to their playhouse to finishing my basement. Finally, I am a University of Cincinnati Alum and huge Bearcats fan.
- Tell us about your family: I was born and raised in Cincinnati Ohio as an only child. My parents are also natives to the Cincinnati area. I am the proud father of two beautiful daughters and the husband to my lovely wife of 14 years.

## JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS | [Top](#)

### Replace Your Cert and Renewal Testing Course Assessments

All instructors and instructor candidates got an email on the 15th sharing links for the new assessments. The updates to the written and skills tests were based on your suggestions and ideas. Thank you!

What are your next steps? Remove the March 2014 assessments (Certification and Renewal Testing courses) and replace

them with the ones dated August 2014. Remember that you can't edit files on your DVD. Since there were other [updates previously released](#), you should have them saved on your hard drive or USB.

Here's how to save the files: Click on the link in the email to open document (through the webpage). Your next step is to save it. You can use the mouse and right-click and the select "Save As" from the list of options.

If you need the email resent, send an [email](#) and we'll get it to you.

Please be sure your fellow instructors and ICs have the latest files. It's a great conversation starter!

Instructors can purchase a USB with the updated curriculum using this [order form](#).

*Submitted by the Curriculum Committee, National Child Passenger Safety Board*

## 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, IL

Dates: March 15-17, 2015

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

### 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](#)

#### **LPE: Taking It to the Streets**

September 24, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 0 (does not include new technical content)

[Register now](#)

#### **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 at [www.Facebook.com/CPScert](http://www.Facebook.com/CPScert)

### Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Safe Kids Worldwide  
CPS Certification  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20004  
[kchausmer@safekids.org](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org)  
Phone: 877-366-8154 (toll free)  
Fax: 202-393-2072

### 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](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org)

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

#### Program Partners



#### Program Sponsor



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

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20004-1707

Phone: 202-662-0600

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