

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.

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



June 2015

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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, and 5" wheels for easy transport. For more information, contact Steve at steve@anyconcept.com or 301-960-4426 and [check out the flier](#).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

New Traffic Safety Reports from National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NHTSA)

[Lives Saved in 2013 by Restraint Use and Minimum Drinking Age Laws](#) (DOT HS 812 137)

In 2013, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 12,584 lives (occupants 5 and older), and an estimated 2,388 lives (occupants 13 and older) were saved by frontal air bags. An estimated 263 lives (child occupants 4 and younger) were saved by the use of child restraints, and 1,630 lives were saved by the use of motorcycle helmets. An additional 2,800 lives would have been saved in 2013 if all unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts. If all motorcyclists had been helmeted, then an additional 715 lives would have been saved. An estimated 504 lives were saved due to minimum-drinking-age laws.

[Driver Electronic Device Use in 2013](#) (DOT HS 812 114)

The percentage of drivers text-messaging or visibly manipulating hand-held devices increased from 1.5 percent in 2012 to 1.7 percent in 2013; however, this was not a statistically significant increase. Driver hand-held cell phone use decreased from 5.2 percent in 2012 to 4.6 percent in 2013; this was a statistically significant decrease. These results are from the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), which provides the only nationwide probability-based observed data on driver electronic device use in the United States. The NOPUS is conducted annually by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Reminder: Apply for the National CPS Board

The 2015 Board Membership Application is found [online](#) and applications will be accepted until this Friday, June 12, 2015 (5 PM PDT). For more information on how to apply or to download the 2015 online application, visit the CPS Board website. The Board is seeking applicants for the following four positions:

- At Large - Candidate must be a CPS Technician or Instructor and will serve as an individual involved in child passenger safety. If supported by an agency, the Candidate will serve on the Board as an individual - not representing his/her employer.

- Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Advocate - Candidate must be a CPS Technician or Instructor representing the CPS community. Candidate will serve on the Board as an individual - not representing his/her employer
- Diversity - Candidate must be a representative of an organization that serves diverse populations. Candidate must have experience in working with hard-to-reach/at-risk populations including culturally/ethnically diverse groups in the field of child passenger safety.
- Injury Prevention - Candidate must be involved in coordinating a broad spectrum of injury prevention programs, including but not limited to, CPS or traffic safety.

Selected applicants will serve a three-year term beginning January 2016.

Submitted by Audrey Eagle, Membership Committee Chair, National CPS Board (Auburn Hills, MI)

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 four 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 four 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 are available. 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 to improve our customer service!

GENERAL | [Top](#)

By the Numbers

Deaths of children in hot cars

- 2015: 2
- 2014: 30
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

Details are available at <http://noheatstroke.org>

CPS Recertification

- 2015: 57.1 percent (January-May)
- 2014: 56.0 percent
- 2013: 58.5 percent
- 2012: 54.9 percent

Don't Let Perfection be the Enemy of Good

As CPS Techs, we promote best practices for safety, such as going to the max height/weight limits before transitioning to the next restraint. The caregiver makes the final decisions about how to travel. As long as they are using their car seat correctly according to the manufacturer (such as a 45 pound kid who uses a booster, the belts fit correctly and they can stay in position), we are really happy they are protecting their kids on the road. The manufacturer always has the final say on how to use their product.

Their child is protected by an appropriate car seat, correctly used, in the back seat. Don't let perfection be the enemy of good.

>> [CPST Code of Conduct](#)

Submitted by the National Child Passenger Safety Board

Seat Check Sign Offs are a BIG to do: Don't Wait Until Last Minute!

You have two years to complete recertification requirements. Don't be fooled by the 24 month stretch, it can creep up on you! The requirement that seems to be the MOST hard to fulfill, in my experience working with CPSTs, are the 5 required seat checks. As a CPSTI, I witness so many Techs scrambling at the last minute trying to fulfill this requirement for recertification. Also, unfortunately I have witnessed many Techs lose their certification because they have waited until the last minute. Planning and preparation is definitely KEY!

Spring is here and summer is quickly approaching, there will be many community seat check events occurring. This is the perfect time to pin point those events and include them in your schedule. Keeping in mind that a CPSTI or Tech Proxy has to be present to witness your ability to interact and communicate effectively with parents, complete paperwork accurately, as well as verify the 5 required seat installations. CPSTIs and Tech Proxies are few and far between in many states so make sure you plan well in advance so that you aren't scrambling. Remember your emergency is not everyone else's. Just saying! The CPSTI or Tech Proxy would definitely appreciate if you take in consideration their schedule by notifying them well in advance.

So why is the 5-seat check requirement SO important? The entire concept of the requirement is to make sure that CPSTs are accurately providing best practice recommendations in an effective way. Our guiding philosophy of LEARN, PRACTICE. EXPLAIN is the CPST mantra in changing behavior. Once the parent learns the skill from the CPST, practice their new skill, and explain the concept back, it can definitely have a ripple effect with everyone that is involved with transporting that child. Your education impact grows! You work with a parent at the PTA who talks with the other parents at soccer practice, they talk with more parents the school recital, who talk at their neighborhood potluck! Do you see where I'm going with this? Don't you just love it?! Just think how the information you give effects a community. So, YES, with this ever-changing field of CPS there has to be an interactive verification process. It ensures quality, efficiency and accuracy.

Staying updated on your skills and knowledge is a responsibility that you commit to as a CPST. In addition, executing the recertification requirements is a responsibility as well. That includes keeping up with your Tech number, username and password to your Safe Kids online

profile, knowing the requirements for recertification, keeping your profile updated, actively participating in events throughout your cycle and NOT waiting until the last minute to complete recertification requirements.

Sign-offs are a BIG to do and necessary for the recertification process so make sure you scratch it off your “to-do” list this summer! For additional information on seat check sign offs go to <http://cert.safekids.org/i-am-a-tech/recertification/seat-checks>.

Submitted by Angela Brown, Diversity Representative, National CPS Board (Nashville, TN)

Auditor Alcove: How Do I...???

How many times do you get emails or phone calls from Techs asking “How do I (insert any of multiple questions)?” How many times have you explained to process for creating a profile, registering for a class, or even entering CEUs? Wouldn't it be nice if you could direct people to a step-by-step guide on how to complete a variety of CPS Cert-related tasks? Never fear, because Team Cert is here!

Go to cert.safekids.org, then click on [Resources-FAQs](#). Click the action item “How To” (or, just bookmark this link). You can also type How To in the search box at the top of the page. Here, you will find PowerPoints and PDFs that will walk anyone through a variety of tasks, including creating a profile, registering for a course, recertification, and much more!

Is there something missing that would be helpful to you and your CPSTs? Let us know and we may be able to create it for you!

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

Fact or Fiction: If the car seat manufacturer doesn't say that I can't do something, then a tech can do whatever it takes to get the installation done right.

FICTION: A technician or a caregiver should always follow the manufactures instructions. Just because it is not specifically stated, don't assume it is okay. For example, the instructions don't say “use a lock-off and switch the retractor” but that does not mean it is okay. Manufactures will only tell you the validated preferred or tested way to use the child restraint not what not to do. Don't make it up as you go along, manufacturers cannot possibly anticipate all the things that shouldn't be done, only the proper use will have been tested and evaluated by the manufacturer. Failure to follow directions may cause the car seat not to perform as intended. Use the tools that you learned in class wisely, the discipline and training to follow directions is imperative. If you need assistance in evaluating the issue, contact the customer service number listed on the car seat to clarify proper use.

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

Featured FAQ: I am not a CPSTI, can I present a tech update session for CPS CEUs?

CEU sessions can be presented by anyone. Presenters do not have to be a CPSTI or a CPST, as long as the content of the presentation is accurate, up to date, and increases the CPS technical knowledge and skill of the CPST audience.

If you would like to develop a CEU session and are unsure if it will qualify for CEUs, you can submit Preapproval Request Form with a copy of your agenda to the Certification Program. You will receive a response within 2 business days. If you do not get a response, please double check the email address (kchausmer@safekids.org) or fax it to 202-393-2072. Your application and agenda will be reviewed and your session will be given a pre-approval ID number. Please do not include copies of your slides as the specific content will not be reviewed.

Pre-approval is not mandatory, but it lets your audience know that your session does count for the specified number of CEUs. If audited, the CPST need only send proof of attendance with the pre-approval ID number.>

Read the FAQ [online](#).

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.

Amber Kroeker (Ann Arbor, MI)
CPS Advocate

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I just joined the Board this year. My first meeting was January.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I became a technician on June 6, 2011- and did the class while I was 8 months pregnant. Try installing a car seat with a basketball attached to your midsection in the sweltering heat of summer!
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** I became a technician for several different reasons. I love the interactions with families, I love the science and engineering behind vehicle safety and I like being able to make an impact on child passenger safety through research. I also want to make sure that there is a voice for the children who lost their lives in crashes- we can remember and honor those children by learning from these crashes and using that data to galvanize change for safety within the industry.
- **Who taught your first certification course?** My first certification class was taught by Amy Teddy, Tori Madura and Carrie Shrier.
- **Advice for the field:** My advice for the field is to remember that our number one goal is to attempt to make the child safer than when they came in. If that means the parent only chooses to change ONE thing (non-regulated products, rear-facing, etc.) that should be viewed as a victory, not a failure.

- **What are your hobbies:** My hobbies include home renovation projects, refinishing furniture and CrossFit.
- **Tell us about your family:** I use the term 'beautiful chaos' to describe my family. I have three sons- Jacob is 18, Solomon is 6 and Eli "Big E" is 3. Each brings a unique set of 'skills' to the family. Jacob is the aloof teen, Solomon wears his heart on his sleeve and practices daily to manage his "big feelings". Eli is observant and patient when, being wronged by his older brother Solomon, waits for the perfect time to exact revenge. This technique has earned him the nickname of "The sniper". I couldn't ask for a more wonderful set of kids. My husband is a surgeon in otolaryngology, specializing in cancer of the head and neck.

JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS | [TOP](#)

CPS Instructors Need to Be in the Field

When we became instructors it was because we had a passion to teach students to become CPS technicians and to help parents provide the safest ways to keep their children safe. As instructors we need to be out in the field, checking car seats and working to keep our knowledge current so we can best help technicians, answer questions and provide opportunities for technicians to complete seat check offs. Most 6instructors do a great job at this. However, there are a few instructors whose priorities have changed and they are not as dedicated as they should be, often teaching only enough to recertify. We have to consider how we, as instructors, can all best serve the families and technicians in our communities. Being an instructor is more than just a title and doing the bare minimum to keep their instructor certification. Completing Instructor Candidacy is no easy task so I can't understand why some new instructors disappear and we only hear from them when they need teaching hours. We need to build up our cadre of dedicated instructors who are truly a part of the CPS team.

If things have changed, or you realize that being an instructor or teaching Certification courses is not best serving your community, consider taking a step back and maintaining your certification as a technician. If you want remain a valuable resource by providing seat checks signs off for recertification, consider applying to be a [Technician Proxy](#). To do so, click on the "Change Certification to Technician" action item in your online profile. Your next step would be completing the application. You can read more about it on [online](#) and in the [FAQs](#).<

Honestly, I not sure why some new instructors are absent from so much of the stuff that makes being an instructor so rewarding, like checkup events, technical updates and teaching courses. Perhaps they need to take a look at their priorities and decide if they should change their status from instructor to technician.

Submitted by Robert Brasky, IDOT-Department of Traffic Safety (Algonquin, Ill.)

CPST Month: Great work!

Thank you for all your hard work during National CPST Month! With 87 courses offered, we were just short of our goal of 100 Certification Courses and matched last year's number. We appreciate that you registered more but had to cancel a few due to lack of registration.

Lead Instructors, be on the lookout for a padded envelope with limited edition lapel pins for your team. They will be sent by USPS in the coming weeks. Please contact Kerry (kchausmer@safekids.org, 202-662-0639) if you don't get them by the end of the month.

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](mailto:Kerry.Chausmer).

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Location: Orlando, Florida

Dates: August 12-15, 2015

[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: Safely Transporting Children by Ambulance

Thursday, Jun 18, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET (East Coast/NY time)

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

[Register now](#)

Safe Kids and State Farm present: Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Evenflo

Thu, July 16, 2015, 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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