

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



July 2015

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## ADVERTISE WITH US

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

### PREVCON is Just Around the Corner



Join your fellow injury prevention advocates and attend PREVCON from July 29 to August 1 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Sessions include many real-world programs and tips so you will leave full of new ideas and ways to keep kids safe in your community.

Explore the program, review the special events and conference information on the [website](#).

## Lifesaver Conference Session Ideas Wanted

Mark your calendars now for the 2016 [Lifesavers Conference](#) in Long Beach, California from April 3-5. Now is the time to send in your ideas for workshops! Workshop sessions are only as strong as the ideas from you in the field that are provided to the planning committee. We count on you to improve our conference.

If you have an idea about a workshop that addresses a timely issue, a research report you think is worth reporting, or a plenary speaker who has enhanced your work in Occupant Protection for Children (OPC), please submit your idea, name, email address and phone number to the planning committee.

The OPC committee will consider every submission. We generally have 13 workshops in addition to conference pre-sessions. No idea is too big or small. Please submit your idea(s) by [email](#) by August 7, 2014.

Submitted by Alexis Kagiliery, Safe Kids Worldwide (Boynton Beach, Florida)

## New Traffic Facts: Children

The Children in Crashes Traffic Facts report (DOT HS 812 154) from NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis includes 2013 crash data and describes findings related to children.

Key findings include:

- Of the 32,719 traffic fatalities in 2013 in the United States, 1,149 (4%) were children 14 and younger.
- In 2013, the 1,149 child traffic fatalities were a 2% decrease from 1,173 in 2012.
- In 2013, the estimated 172,000 injured children in traffic crashes were a 2% increase from 169,000 in 2012.
- In 2013, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for children age 4 and the second leading cause of death for children age 3 and every age 5 to 14.
- On average, 3 children were killed and 470 children were injured every day in traffic crashes in 2013.
- In passenger cars, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions are 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively.

Read the full [report](#).

Submitted by Carole Guzzetta, NHTSA (Washington, DC)

## 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. Use the lists at [Get a Car Seat Checked](#) to find an event (NHTSA or Safe Kids) or instructor (Find A Tech) near you.

[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](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 to improve our customer service!

## GENERAL | [Top](#)

### By the Numbers

#### Deaths of children in hot cars

- **2015:** 8
- **2014:** 31
- **2013:** 43
- **2012:** 34
- **2011:** 33
- **2010:** 49

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

#### CPS Recertification

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

## Tech Resources on New LATCH Weight Limits and Labeling

There are a number of CPS technicians who may not feel confident about educating caregivers about when to use lower anchors and when to advise seat belt use for a proper installation.

The CPS Board [website](#) now offers two opportunities to gain a better understanding of the revised FMVSS 213 amendment that requires the combined weight of the child and the car seat not to exceed 65 lbs. There are two different LATCH related webinars, one originally offered by Safe Kids and State Farm and the second offered at the 2015 Lifesavers Conference, that may help you feel more confident in providing guidance to caregivers. The webinar entitled "[Explaining LATCH and Labeling Curbside](#)" was a 2015 Lifesavers Conference session that offered the perspective of car seat manufacturers, vehicle manufactures, NHTSA and how this may be applied in the field. It provides technicians with ways to address parents' questions and concerns. The second webinar, "[LATCH 2015 What the Curbside Tech Needs to Know](#)", provides focus on decision making through examples and resources for techs in providing guidance to caregivers.

These webinars provide excellent opportunities for you to learn more about the new LATCH guidelines and how that translates to our work in the field. Technicians can earn a CEU by completing the quiz associated with each webinar.

Another handy resource is the "[How to Deal With FMVSS 213 LATCH Use Changes?](#)" page by Safe Ride News.

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

## Come One, Come All! Completing Your Community Education for Recertification

Often technicians focus so much on getting their seat checks and CEUs that they may lose track of the requirement in completing the community education. Participating in community education is required for recertification for both technicians and instructors. There are a couple of options available to you. One is to participate in a seat checkup event for a minimum of two hours. At least one other CPS technician must be present and you must use any standardized checklist form while serving families. If you can only stay for one hour, then you would need to participate in another checkup event for an additional hour. If you have difficulty getting away to participate in events, consider hosting your own! Consider reaching out to technicians in your area who may also need to fulfill their community education requirement. Expanding your technician pool will allow you to serve more families and will allow for networking and collaboration for future events. It's a win-win if you also invite an instructor or tech proxy who could complete seat check sign offs for you and other techs participating.

The other option is to complete 4four hours of community education to people who are not CPS technicians. Many service organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. are always looking for speakers. You may only get 30 minutes, but it can increase your organization's visibility in the community. If you hit a few, you will be very close to getting your four hours. You can also consider PTAs, parent groups, and law enforcement groups. Small group presentations are a great way to provide an overview of car seat safety while being able to answer specific questions. You can do basic demonstrations on harnessing and installation while stressing the importance of attending a seat check with a certified tech. Be sure to have resources available, including a list of inspection stations in the community.

It is important to remember that your community education is different than the continuing education requirement, so they can't be combined. What this means is that you can't use a session that you teach to families about car seat use as a CEU. The purpose of a CEU is to increase YOUR technical knowledge!

Learn more about the Community Education requirement on the Certification [website](#) and [how to enter it into your online profile](#).

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Canton, Ohio) and Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, Florida)

## Learning by Doing: Hands-on Activities at Technical Updates

Getting together at a local or state technical update is fun and a great way to network, learn or reinforce what you know while earning CEUs for recertification. Because most of us have responsibilities that require being on the go, it is difficult to sit and be attentive for a day full of PowerPoint presentations. Granted, you will be getting helpful information but you are not as engaged as you could be. We have learned through evaluations from our certification classes and tech updates that people really enjoy the hands-on activities. Hands-on activities reinforce information and help us process the information better than just listening or reading alone. So, consider mixing it up a bit at your next workshop or tech update by mixing presentations with activity stations and have some fun!

Planning on what types of hands-on activities is important for a successful tech update. Here are some things to keep in mind and get you started:

### Prior to event

- Survey your techs and find out what they are most interested in doing and learning. Identify opportunities to incorporate hands-on activities from these surveys.
- Evaluate the facility to make sure there is adequate space and access to accommodate outside and inside activities.

- Recruit technically strong technicians and give them enough lead time to prepare for their station.
- Don't overextend yourself or your station leads. Make sure you have enough help so stations run smoothly and on time.
- Keep in mind that you will have newer techs alongside seasoned ones so plan on activities that will challenge techs at different experience levels.
- Consider a conference call or pre-meeting to ensure clarity of expectations, roles and preparation. It is good to not have any surprises when you arrive at the event!
- Consider setting up the afternoon before the update so you have time to do a run through and make sure you have all your materials. If you have an on-site AV/IT person, make sure they are there to help.
- Consider how you will divide the group so movement from station to station is clear. Examples include using name tags (green for outside and blue for inside), dividing room in half or by table.
- Craft a passport and consider a worksheet for questions that attendees will answer at selected stations.

## Day of event

- Arrive early for set up; making sure everything is available for all of the stations. Test every aspect of each station.
- Provide instructions to everyone, stressing the importance of staying with their assigned group through each of the stations and not moving to the next until there is a signal.
- Sign off participants at each station, providing extra pens at each station and labeling the stations clearly.

## End of event

- Collect the paperwork and equipment for each station (you may be using it again in another area).
- Pack up the station equipment, return laptops, car seats, etc.
- Wrap up with the team to discuss what went well, ways to improve and create new stations while it is fresh in your minds.
- Include requests for additional station ideas in the overall update evaluation.

To help you plan your hands on stations, check out the [photo tip sheet](#). You can find tips on putting together a successful tech update on the CPS Board [website](#).

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

## Auditor Alcove: Who Wants to Become a Tech Proxy?

Are you a tech who is the "go to" in your area? Do you live in an area with few or no instructors? Have you considered becoming an instructor, but don't have the time to dedicate or interest in teaching the courses? Do you still want to be able to sign off technicians for their seat sign offs? Consider becoming a Tech Proxy! For a small fee you can apply to become a Technician Proxy. The process involves doing at least two sign offs while an instructor observes your interactions with the technician. They will be watching to make sure you observe the entire seat check and interact positively with the tech while providing constructive feedback. These are your test drives!

Once your application is approved, you will be able to conduct seat check sign offs at events and fitting stations! More information about the process and application is [online](#).

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

## Fact or Fiction: NHTSA issued more vehicle recalls in 2014 than in the past 30 years.

**FACT:** NHTSA marked a record year in 2014, with the highest number of vehicle recalls in more than three decades. There were 803 vehicle recalls involving 63.9 million vehicles, including two of the ten largest vehicle recalls in history.

Find out more about efforts to improve recall repair rate from the NHTSA Retooling Recalls workshop held on April 28. You can watch videos and read the reports on their [website](#).

## Featured FAQ: What happens if a technician can't do the actual installations for the required seat checks due to a physical restriction?

Technicians are required to complete five car seat installations for recertification. All technicians and instructors are required to have a currently certified instructor or technician-proxy witness and verify a correct installation in a vehicle with accurate

technical information and quality communication with a caregiver. Should any technician or instructor require assistance with the physical requirements of the seat check, the evaluating instructor or tech proxy will accommodate the person by installing the seats following the technician's specific instruction in each step of the selection, direction, location and harnessing.

Example: Kate has broken her arm and Tess, who is an instructor, has spoken with her about how she will check car seats while she is in the cast. They agree to work together at an upcoming fire department checkup. Tess and Kate have discussed expectations and how the checkup will take place, discussing how she will work with the parent or caregiver. Tess will watch Kate's interaction as she talks the caregiver through correct installation and use of the car seat. Kate is sure to double check the harnessing and installation as the parent works. After the checkup, Tess will ask Kate follow up questions and if she is confident in Kate's technical and communication skills, Kate will then enter the seat online in her profile.

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.

### **Sherri Cannon (Kansas City, MO)** **NHTSA Regional Representative**

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I joined the Board in 2008, representing the NHTSA Regions.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I was in the very first pilot Technician certification course in August of 1997. I was an Instructor Candidate during the Curriculum implementation phase and became an Instructor in March of 1998.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** CPS advocacy was first a job but quickly became a passion of mine. I began coordinating the child passenger safety programs in Kansas in 1995 and continued working there until I came to work for NHTSA in 2002. As part of my job with NHTSA, I am the Region 7 CPS Coordinator for the states in our Region (AR, IA, KS, MO, NE) and serve on the CPS Board. In my personal life I continue to enjoy volunteering my time with my local Safe Kids Coalition in Lawrence, KS.
- **Who taught your first certification course?** Cindy Rubich and the fabulous Lorrie Walker. Lorrie continues to be a leader in the CPS community and I am delighted to say that I learn something new about CPS every time I am around her.
- **Advice for the field:** It struck me a few weeks ago that I have been in this field for 20 years, which seems like a lifetime ago. I have seen many changes in car seats, as well as the procedures and policies related to CPS. It is truly an ever-changing field. One of the most useful tools for me is to find avenues to learn from not only the folks that have been around forever, but those people that are new to the field. I am amazed by the depth of knowledge about CPS that is out in the field and we can all learn from each other. I am also awed by the continued passion there is for CPS and thrilled that 20 years later we continue to have strong advocates that carry the CPS torch. I would say to find those torch carriers and support them in their CPS efforts, it takes all of us to keep our young passengers safe on our nation's roadways.
- **What are your hobbies:** The joy of grandkids can't be compared to any hobby. Between my significant other Joe and I, we have 9 grandkids and I spend as much time with them as possible. But I do have several other hobbies. I love to travel and I am always ready for the next adventure and by the time you read this we will have just returned from a trip to Alaska. I also love to quilt and making baby quilts seems to take up quite a bit of time these days. When I have spare minute, you will find me reading a book.
- **Tell us about your family:** I have a wonderful significant other named Joe. I am blessed with awesome twin sons that are married to fabulous women. Their families are growing and I now have three perfect grandchildren (6 months, 7 months and almost 3 years). I also have two wonderful step families that come with my significant other and together they have six equally perfect kids, ranging from 3 to 15 years. There for a bit I was out of the car seat business in my personal life, but it seems that I now have at least one seat installed in my vehicle at all times. Joe asks every so often, has that stack of seats in the garage grown again? I thought he might not notice!

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

### **Making Use of Technology: Seat Checks**

As instructors, we do our best to be available for technician seat check sign offs. Sometimes meeting with technicians in more remote locations can be especially challenging. With some planning, flexibility and a lot of communication, you might consider video calls to assess technical and communications skills.

#### **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.

Read the [FAQ](#) online.

## 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)

### [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: 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](#)

### **Safe Kids and State Farm present: Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Hauck and Safe Traffic System**

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

These three webinars do not meet the content requirements of new technical knowledge and are not eligible for CPS CEUs.

### **Seat Checks for Recert: Requirements and Tips**

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### **Tips for Mentors and Instructor Candidates**

Wed, Aug 26, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

**CEU Audit: It's easier than you think!**

Wed, Sept 9, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[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](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org)

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

Program Partners



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