

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



September 2015

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TECH GEAR ONLINE STORE

Proud to be a tech? Strut your stuff!

Need Tech or Instructor tees or polos? Travel mugs? Event signs? Training dolls?

Look no further than the [Tech Online Store](#).

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Learn more about [CPS Express Ad Space](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 CPS Technician and Instructor of the Year

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

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is accepting nominations in recognition of outstanding CPS contributions by Technicians and Instructors during the last 12 months (September 2014 – September 2015). This is the annual national award program sponsored by The National Child Passenger Safety Board to honor the men and women who dedicate their time and skills to ensure our nation's children and their families are transported safely in car seats, boosters and in safety belts. Their efforts actively reduce the number of motor vehicle deaths and injuries among children in our country.

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. Self-nominations are also welcome. 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.

For information, guidelines, eligibility and the application, go to www.cpsboard.org/award-nominations. The nomination period will be September 13, 2015 through November 20, 2015. Late applications will not be accepted.

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)

Customer Service or Safe Kids?

Customer Service should be your first call for questions about logging into your profile, making a payment, receipts or registering for a course. Toll-free Customer Service is available weekdays from 9 am to 7 pm ET at 877-366-8154 and by email at cps.certification@safekids.org.

If you have issues or questions about Instructor Candidacy, Technician Proxy, appeals or if you notice any weird programming glitches, Safe Kids is your first point of contact. Remember, Customer Service representatives can help with many things but they are not CPS Techs.

[CONTACT US](#) information is online with the Customer Service number and the CONTACT US link located in the upper right of every webpage.

Answers to many questions may be found online, in the [FAQs](#), or by looking over our [HOW TO](#) steps.

New NHTSA Reports

Mapping to MMUCC: A Process for Comparing Police Crash Reports and State Crash Databases to the MMUCC

The Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) Guideline, Fourth Edition (2012), is a voluntary guideline designed to help States determine what crash data to collect on their police accident reports (PARs) and what data to code and carry in their crash databases. To assist States in evaluating their consistency with MMUCC, NHTSA and GHSA have developed a methodology for mapping the data collected on PARs and the data entered and maintained on crash databases to the data elements and attributes in the MMUCC Guideline. This methodology is intended to standardize how States compare both their PARs and their crash databases to MMUCC. The process recognizes that while State data systems often use different terminology and formatting, different data sets often can be mapped to the recommended MMUCC data elements and attributes.

Read the [report](#).

2013 Traffic Safety Fact Sheet Rural/Urban Comparison

There were 30,057 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes resulting in 32,719 fatalities. Of these 30,057 fatal traffic crashes, there were 15,998 (53 percent) that occurred in rural areas, 14,026 (47 percent) that occurred in urban areas, and 33 (<0.5 percent) that occurred in unknown areas. For the purpose of this fact sheet, rural and urban boundaries are determined by the State highway departments and approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The State highway departments use the U.S. Census Bureau's rural and urban boundaries.

Read the [report](#).

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, 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!

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By the Numbers

Deaths of children in hot cars

- **2015:** 18
- **2014:** 31
- **2013:** 43
- **2012:** 34
- **2011:** 33
- **2010:** 49

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

CPS Recertification

- **2015:** 58.8 percent (January-August)
- **2014:** 56.0 percent
- **2013:** 58.5 percent
- **2012:** 54.9 percent

IIHS LATCH Ease of Use Ratings

In its June 2015 issue of the Status Report, IIHS issued its first ease-of-use ratings for child restraint hardware installation. The new LATCH ratings will serve as a resource for families looking for a vehicle that makes it easy to transport their children safely. The ratings are also intended to encourage vehicle manufacturers to pay attention to the lower anchors, which they found often is treated as an afterthought.

In many vehicles, LATCH hardware could be better. In fact, the institute found that only 3 vehicles of more than 100 earned a good rating, while more than half are poor or marginal. IIHS found that parents were more likely to have installed the seat correctly when the LATCH hardware met certain ease-of-use criteria. A good lower anchor where the parents do not have to struggle to locate them will increase the likelihood that children will ride in properly installed seats.

In the new ratings system, vehicle LATCH hardware is rated GOOD if it meets the following criteria:

- The lower anchors are no more than ¾ inch deep in the seat bight.
- The lower anchors are easy to maneuver around. This is defined as having a clearance angle greater than 54 degrees.

- The force required to attach a standardized tool to the lower anchors is less than 40 pounds. (The tool represents a lower connector of a child set, though the actual force required when installing a set varies depending on the specific connector).
- Tether anchors are on the vehicle's rear deck or on the top 85 percent of the seatback. They should not be at the very bottom of the seatback, under the seat, on the ceiling, on the floor.
- The area where the tether anchor is found does not have any other hardware that could be confused for the tether anchor. If other hardware is present, then the tether anchor must have a clear label located within 3 inches of it.

Read the [full report](#).

Submitted by Thelma Kuska, At-Large Representative, National CPS Board (Palos Heights, Ill.)

Webinars for Techs and Instructors

Safe Kids is offering a series of short webinars designed to answer questions and provide guidance for some of the most common questions related to policy. If you have any questions you would like addressed or if you have any tips to share, please send me an [email](#).

LAST ONE:

CEU Audit: It's easier than you think!

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

[Register now](#)

We hope you will join us!

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Quality Assurance Specialist, Safe Kids Worldwide (Massillon, Ohio)

Auditor Alcove: Nontechnical Webinars: For the Love of Learning!

If you missed the two webinars offered in August, never fear! Both were recorded and are available for you to view. The first one was on seat check sign offs for recertification and offered an overview of the requirements along with some helpful tips. The second one discussed the instructor candidacy process and mentoring. There will be a third one on [Wednesday, September 9th at 2:00 pm EST](#). This 30-minute webinar will cover the CEU audit process.

If you are unable to join and are interested in the information, it will also be recorded. For links to any of the webinars, [please email me](#). Keep in mind that these webinars are LOL webinars (Love of Learning!) are not eligible for CEUs, as they do not contain new technical content.

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in a webinar? [Send](#) me your ideas.

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

Fact or Fiction: Car seat recall notifications are only made by the manufacturer.

FICTION: Anyone can sign up for recall alerts and notifications.

To sign up, go to the NHTSA Office of Defect Investigation website's [car seat section](#), and click on the link on the right, either [email notifications](#) or [RSS feed](#).

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 the [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 (<mailto: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 we feature a child passenger safety board member here in the CPS Express.

Thelma Kuska (Palos Heights, IL)
At-Large Representative

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** As a volunteer, I have been a NCPSB member since January 2014. I had previously served on the NCPSB board in 1999 as the first NHTSA representative to the board.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I took one of the first pilot certification courses in April 1997, with 19 other emergency nurses from different parts of the country. In July 1998, the first certification class in Illinois was held in Hoffman Estates where I was one of 4 instructor-candidates. That makes it 18 years since I first became a technician and instructor.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** Injury prevention has always been my passion. As an emergency nurse, I see daily the consequences when children are not restrained properly. So when the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) offered a one-day CPS class in 1995, it piqued my interest. By the time I attended the 2-day "Buckle Up Kids" class in 1996, I decided that this is something to champion in the ED. It is easy to become a CPS advocate. Who would ever say 'no' to preventing injuries from occurring to our most precious asset, the children?
- **Who taught your first certification course?** I was taught by the best instructors, Bob Wall, Cheryl Neverman, Steve Casstevens and Joel Bolton.
- **Advice for the field:** The field of child passenger safety, just like the medical field, is ever changing. Keep up with what's new – new information on how to safely transport children in cars, new car seats, research articles. Read the Safe Kids CPS Express, visit the National Child Passenger Safety Board website and look over the various resources available. Never stop learning.
- **What are your hobbies:** I love reading fiction and non-fiction, needlework-cross stitch and needlepoint (my house is full of finished needlework projects), golf (although I am not very good), working on LEGO projects (and these can get very expensive). I have finished working on the London Tower bridge, VW van, mini Cooper car and I am currently working on the Parisian restaurant and apartment. I also love to travel! Last year, we went to the Baltics in July and the Greek isles, Ephesus, Turkey, the Italian and the French Riviera. We will be going on a Viking river cruise in China in the fall.
- **Tell us about your family:** My husband of 45 years is retired CFO. We have a daughter, Tina, a CPA and attorney, and son, Alan, who is also a CPA. Our son-in-law, Mark, is also a CPA. I am the lone medical person in our family. Mark and Tina have twin boys, Timmy and Robby who are 5 years old. So we are the proud grandparents of twin boys!

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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](mailto:kerry.chausmer@safekids.org).

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

[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: Hauck and Safe Traffic System**
Thu, Sep 17, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
[Register now](#)

This upcoming webinar does not meet the content requirements of new technical knowledge and is not eligible for CPS CEUs.

- **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

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

Program Partners



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

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