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# CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

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MAY/JUNE 2016

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## Top News

### CPS Express Schedule Updated

Since 2005, Safe Kids has been sending the CPS Express to technicians every month. As times change, we are also changing. You may have noticed our new look, but did you notice we moved to a bimonthly schedule? Look for the Express at the beginning of every odd month. Should there be urgent,

breaking news, we will send out a special edition to be sure you have the information you need.

### **Online CEU Resources Updated**

The Safe Kids [online training site](#) recently added a new module, and we've improved it with your feedback. There are six available modules: Safe Transportation of Children in Other Vehicles, Vehicle Safety Part 1 - Federal Standards, Vehicle Safety Part 2 – Non-Federal Information for the Consumer, School Bus Technical Update, New Technology and Using Rear-Facing Child Restraints Longer. Once you pass the quiz, you will be emailed a certificate to keep as proof of completion.



The National Child Passenger Safety Board has also added more CEU options on its [website](#). With 20 available CEUs, you are bound to find ones that interest you. When you pass the quiz, be ready to print your screen for proof of completion.

### **National CPS School Bus Course: How Far We've Come!**

Hopefully, most CPS techs are already aware that an updated version of the *Child Passenger Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses National Training* was released in September 2015. This updated course required that all interested technicians, even those that had taken a previous version of this training, participate and complete in the updated course before teaching this latest curriculum to others. Eight months later we are excited to report there are 90 CPST/Is in the new School Bus Extra Training database that was also created at the same time. Our thanks to everyone that has made the effort to host and participate in this training!

As a reminder, if you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in the updated school bus curriculum, you can still continue to teach the former curriculum. However, CPST/Is that participate in trainings taught with the former curriculum cannot have the “School Bus” Extra Training added to their certification profiles.

If you are interested in hosting a training in your local area, and have not yet taken the updated course yourself, here are a few recommendations:

- **Contact your [State CPS Coordinator](#).** All state CPS Coordinators were sent a DVD in September 2015 with the updated School Bus Training materials. Remember, even if you obtain the updated materials from your state coordinator, be sure a CPST/I who has taken the updated training serves as the lead instructor. Information is verified by the NSC before adding this information to attendee certification profiles. Instructor materials are not available in Instructor Downloads.
- **Work with a CPST/I who has completed the updated course.** These CPST/Is can be found on the [FIND TECH](#) search. Click on the “School Bus” option under the heading of “Extra Training” and click Submit. A list of CPST/Is who have completed the updated training and have their information posted publicly will result.

It is STRONGLY recommended that those serving as Lead Instructors for School Bus trainings work with school transportation personnel when offering this course.

More information about this training can be found on the [CPS Board website](#).

- The updated **Participant Manual** is available [online](#).
- A list of **upcoming trainings** (available as Instructors provide information for sharing).
- Information to order printed copies of the training materials.

Please note: It is OPTIONAL to purchase materials through the cited resource. However, multiple Lead Instructors have provided feedback that this seems to be the most economical option when hosting this training. Instructor materials cannot be purchased through this resource if the Lead Instructor does not appear in the School Bus Extra Training database. To that end, it is very important that participants are instructed to write neatly on the course sign-in sheets. This information is used to add the extra training to certification profiles and must be legible.

We welcome your questions as the CPS field navigates these changes. Please send them to [Amy.Artuso@nsc.org](mailto:Amy.Artuso@nsc.org). It is progress for the school bus specialty area to be able to track who in the field has this training. We hope you'll join us in sharing and educating on this important topic!

Submitted by Amy Artuso, National Safety Council (Itasca, Ill.)

## CEU Resources

### A Resource for CPSTs: FCA's Child Passenger Safety Supplement

Did you know that FCA US LLC has a Child Passenger Safety Supplement available for model years 2000-2013 that complements the information found in the Vehicle Owner's Manual and/or User Guide? The CPS Supplements provide information about the use of current child restraints in these older model years, and can be found on each brand specific website under the Owners tab.

- [Chrysler](#)
- [Dodge](#)
- [Jeep](#)
- [Ram](#)
- [Fiat](#)

The CPS Supplements are divided into four vehicle types: Mini-Van, Passenger Car SUV and Trucks.

The first chapter of the CPS Supplement, “Installing Child Restraints,” provides general information about the installation of child restraints in vehicles. It includes general step-by-step instructions for installing a car seat using either the seat belts or the LATCH anchorages in your vehicle. This section also includes key warnings about the misuse of car seats. For example:

- FCA warns that a seat belt may not be used in the automatic locking mode to restrain a child who is using a booster seat.
- FCA does not permit the use of a support leg on a rear-facing only car seat in a vehicle equipped with in-floor storage. The floor of these vehicles is not designed to manage the crash forces of this type of car seat.
- FCA does not permit attaching a tether strap for a rear-facing car seat to any location in front of the car seat, including the seat frame or a tether anchorage. The tether strap of a rear-facing car seat must be attached to the tether anchorage that is approved for that seating position, located behind the top of the vehicle seat.

The remaining chapters provide information that is specific for the brand, model and model year of the vehicle. These sections provide information about:

- Locating lower anchorages and tether anchorages in the vehicle
- Identifying the seat belt locking mechanism that present in each passenger seat
- Whether or not a rear-facing seat can touch the back of the front passenger seat
- Whether or not the buckle stalk can be twisted to aid installation.

- Other frequently asked questions.

Submitted by Tammy Franks, National CPS Board, CPS Advocate, Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel, (Portland, Ore.) and Audrey Eagle, National CPS Board, Vehicle Manufacturers Representative, FCA US LLC (Auburn Hills, MI)

## **How to Dispose of your Expired Seats**

As Child Passenger Safety technicians, we know that we want to discontinue use of seats at their expiration date. Child restraint manufacturers put expiration dates on seats for several reasons. The plastic shells and components may degrade over time. Parts may be damaged or lost. Labels may no longer be present or legible. The seats may be recalled. Technological advances on newer seats may help to protect the child better.

So the car seat or booster seat has served its useful life...what should you do with it now? We don't want someone to find it and think they found a treasure in the trash.

A review of several child restraint owner's manuals provides varying advice. Some manufacturers simply state to discontinue use and/or throw away the seat when it reaches its expiration date. Others recommend recycling the seat and may give specific instructions on how to do so.

Starting with the "green" approach, you may be able to recycle the seat in some areas of the country. For a comprehensive list, visit [www.recycleyourcarseat.org](http://www.recycleyourcarseat.org). The level of preparation for recycling may vary by recycling program. Some will accept the seat as is. Others may request that all fabric, foam, webbing and components (buckle, anchor attachments, harness retainer clip) be removed prior to dropping off the seats. Metal components, i.e. lower anchor or tether anchor attachments, may be recycled separately from the shells. Recycling options for the hard-core foam are very limited nationally. Currently, there is not a recycling market for fabric, soft foam and webbing.

If recycling is not available in your area, the seat should be prepared for disposal. Remove all fabric, foam, webbing and components and dispose of separately. Mark the shell and/or base with “DO NOT USE”, “BAD” or “EXPIRED”. In order to discourage reuse, make the seat look as undesirable to use as possible. Throw away in black plastic bags that are not see-through.

Be creative, too, with reusing the components. Some groups donate the seat covers to animal shelters to use as liners in cages. Other programs give seat covers and components to local crafting individuals who make CPS-themed bags and purses.

Submitted by Tammy Franks, National CPS Board, CPS Advocate, Randall Children’s Hospital at Legacy Emanuel (Portland, Ore.)

## **2014 Traffic Safety Fact Sheet Occupant Protection**

In 2014, there were 21,022 occupants of passenger vehicles killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of these 21,022 occupants, 9,958 (51%) were known to be restrained, as shown in Table 1. Looking at only occupants where the restraint status was known, 49 percent were unrestrained at the time of the crash. Restraint use was not known for 1,679 occupants. [Read the report.](#)

### **2014 Motor Vehicle Crashes: Overview**

The number of motor vehicle crash fatalities on U.S. roadways in 2014 continued the general decline that started in 2006. The Nation lost 32,675 people in crashes on roadways during 2014, down from 32,894 in 2013. The estimated number of people injured on the Nation’s roads increased in 2014, rising from 2.31 to 2.34 million injured people. Fatalities declined from 2013 to 2014 in almost all segments of the population—passenger vehicle occupants, large-truck occupants, pedalcyclists, young drivers, and with alcohol-impaired driving fatalities; only pedestrian fatalities increased by 2.2 percent. Although fatalities decreased from 2013 to 2014, the estimated number of police-reported crashes that occurred on the roads increased— primarily a result of

an almost 8 percent increase in crashes that resulted in no injuries and only property damage. [Read the report.](#)

### **Updated Quick Facts 2014**

National Center for Statistics and Analysis has released the 2014 Quick Facts publication as a quick reference to the most asked questions regarding motor vehicle traffic fatalities and crashes. This publication provides the most current data at your fingertips. [Read the report.](#)

### **Fact or Fiction: All States Have a Designated CPS Training Contact.**

**FACT:** Each State Highway Safety Office (SHSO or HSO) designates one or two individuals to serve as their state's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Coordinator. Depending on how the SHSO manages their state CPS program, the coordinator's role can vary greatly. In some states there is a single point of contact who works in the HSO. In others, there is a person outside of the HSO who is designated by the HSO to conduct programming for the state. And in some instances there is a shared role between the SHSO and an outside resource, with two individuals serving as the state CPS Coordinator.

The CPS contact is the main point of contact for child passenger safety programming in the state. They are the "go to" person for information related to CPS Week, CPS training and CPS educational activities. Each contact maintains a list of the individuals in their state that have been certified as a CPS Technician or Instructor, provides information as needed from NHTSA, Safe Kids and the state. The contact is also responsible for coordinating with NHTSA to keep the list of NHTSA CPS Inspection Stations up to date. Each year NHTSA relies on the CPS contact to disburse CPS Week materials and gather information on seat check events for CPS Week and Seat Check Saturday.

Want to know yours? [Check out the list.](#)

### **Wallet Card Redux**

The CPS certification wallet card is helpful to have at events or seat checks because it confirms your certification status and has your technician or instructor number on it. It can also be an easy tool to provide caregivers with additional CPS information.

How many times have you been out in public when you run into an education opportunity and wished you had a piece of literature to give that caregiver? Or how about working a busy seat check event and you ran out of your favorite handout? Instead of telling the parent to Google something or look up a web address, what if there was a way to give them that handout so that they don't forget about it later?

Find your favorite CPS educational handout online (make sure the handout is free for reproduction, like the ones from Safe Kids Worldwide, NHTSA, Safety Belt Safe and the AAP) and use one of the many free websites such as [QR Stuff](#) or [QR Generator](#) to create a QR code that links to that handout. All you need is the URL (web address). Print that QR code and glue it on a credit card sized piece of card stock. Print your wallet card and glue it to the other side. Laminate it, and you've got yourself a durable card that will prove to come in handy time and time again. All you have to do is show it to the caregiver, who can scan it with their smartphone or tablet and it will take them directly to the handout you picked.

Resource: [How to Print Your Wallet Card](#)

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

## CEU Resources

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 \(KIM\) Conference](#)  
Orlando, Florida  
August 10 - 13, 2016
- [New England Child Passenger Safety Regional Conference](#)  
Burlington, Vermont  
September 9-11, 2016

## Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge. [Learn more](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

Troubleshoot to avoid problems: [Test your connection now](#)

Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group? [Read more](#)

- **Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Orbit and Kiddy**  
Wednesday, May 18, 2016  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET  
CPS and [CHES](#) credit available  
[Register now](#)
- **Beyond Inspections: CPS Technicians Teaching Classes**  
Thursday, June 23, 2016  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET  
Not eligible for CPS CEUs. May be used for [Community Education](#) Requirement. [CHES](#) credit available.  
[Register now](#)

More webinars coming soon! Mid-month updates posted on [Facebook](#).

## For Instructors

### Copy That

All instructors have the latest version of the curriculum DVD (dated rev 2/2015). DVDs are reasonably sturdy but they can get damaged. To avoid getting stuck because you can't find your DVD or it is damaged. Simply save the DVD files to your hard drive. You are also welcome to make an extra copy. Is yours lost or damaged? Safe Kids can send you a replacement (be sure your contact information in your online profile is up to date) or you can easily copy a fellow instructor's DVD.

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

## Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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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

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[National CPS Certification Training](#) is a program of [Safe Kids Worldwide](#), which is the certifying body and responsible for managing all aspects of the program.

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