

CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

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Top News

You Could Be The One

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is accepting nominations for the 2017 CPS Technician and Instructor of the Year. Do you know an outstanding Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor that has demonstrated the characteristics in the title for the last 12 months (September 2015-September 2016)? If you answered yes to this question, then show them how much you appreciate their work by nominating them for this annual national award sponsored by the National CPS Board. Self-nominations are also welcome.

For information, guidelines, eligibility and the application, go to <http://cpsboard.org/awardpage/2017-technician-instructor-of-the-year-awards/>. The nomination period will continue through November 18, 2016. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Submitted by Sarah Tilton, National Child Passenger Safety Board, At-Large Representative (Ft. Mill, S.C.) and Suzanne LeDoyen, National Child Passenger Safety Board, Diversity Representative (Raleigh, N.C.)

Transporting Babies Affected by Zika Virus

Have you thought about how to transport babies who are born with microcephaly due to the Zika virus infection? Do they have special transportation needs?

Microcephaly is among the most frequent of the birth defects resulting from the Zika virus. Microcephaly will cause the baby's head to be smaller in size than average and may affect the development of the brain. The challenges children with microcephaly can encounter include, but are not limited to, seizures, speech, trunk control, ability to feed and breathing. Other common birth defects related to Zika virus include eye defects, hearing loss and impaired growth.

When working with a family with a baby born with birth defects as a result of the Zika virus infection, assess the child and determine their needs based on that child's unique situation. Remember – use the basics. The best car seat should fit the child, the vehicle and can be used correctly every time. Work with the child's clinical care team to ensure their health needs are being met during transportation.

You can find more details about the Zika virus infection and the associated birth defects on the website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>. For more information on transporting children with special needs, visit: <http://www.preventinjury.org/>

Submitted by Sarah Tilton, National Child Passenger Safety Board, At-Large Representative (Ft. Mill, S.C.) and Suzanne LeDoyen, National Child Passenger Safety Board, Diversity Representative (Raleigh, N.C.)

2015 National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats

“Risking the safety of future generations by letting children ride unrestrained is not acceptable,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “Seat belts and car seats save lives, and need to be used on every trip.”

The just-released NHTSA [2015 National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats](#) shows 37.4 percent of children ages 4 to 7 in the United States were not being properly restrained. Of that number, 25.8 percent were restrained by seat belts and 11.6 percent were unrestrained. 13.6 percent of children from 1 to 3 years old were prematurely transitioned to booster seats, a significant increase from the prior year.

Hispanic and African American children tended to have lower restraint use. Restraint use in the Hispanic 1-to 12-year old age group was lower than the national average, and non-Hispanic African American children 8 to 12 years old had the lowest restraint use across all age groups at 72.4 percent.

Read the full [report](#).

New Scholarship Grants Available to Conference Organizers

The Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (MACPS) is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity for 2017. MACPS will provide monetary support, in the form of grants to be used for scholarships, to local, state, regional or national conferences. The grant award will be made to the conference, not individual CPSTs. Funding will be limited to one conference awarded per [NHTSA Region](#).

We know that attending conferences can be costly – and every technician may not have the opportunity to travel to even a local or state conference due to those expenses. The purpose of this grant funding is to offset those costs and allow more technicians to attend conferences and receive current CPS information.

Please share this announcement with any contacts responsible for organizing conferences in your state or region. A member of the conference planning committee should complete the application by January 31, 2017.

Go online for the [application](#) and more [information](#). Feel free to [email](#) if you have any questions.

Submitted by Sarah Haverstick, MACPS Scholarship Committee Chair (Nashville, Tenn.)

Diono Updates Inflatable Belt Use Policy

All Diono convertible car seats and booster seats currently sold in the market may be safely installed and used with Ford Motor Company's inflatable seat belts. This allowance is retroactive to previous Diono Radian convertible and Monterey booster models.

Note that this approval is only for Ford brand inflatable belts.

More information from Diono, including FAQs, can be found [online](#).

Most recent [Inflatable Seat Belt Policy \(updated March 14, 2016\)](#)

Natural Disasters

If you need additional time to recertify due to a natural disaster, provide Safe Kids with a simple explanation of the situation and relevant dates.

Requests should be received prior to your certification expiration but will be accepted within six months of the disaster. Safe Kids will work with you to provide additional time for you to recertify without penalty.

Read the policy [online](#).

Where Did You Find That?

Navigating the internet for reputable CPS sources can often leave a CPST staring blankly at a screen. When working with a family, it is important to direct them to sources that will provide the most accurate up-to-date information regarding their specific scenario. If possible, use a smartphone or tablet during an inspection to show caregivers how to find installation and use videos on the car seat manufacturer websites. These sites should be the first place to look when searching for information specific to a particular seat.

Check out the [CPS Board web site](#) for an updated list of child restraint manufacturers, their websites and contact info. You can often find instruction manuals in their full forms, which can be helpful when caregivers do not have theirs. Encourage caregivers to link to the sites on their smartphones for an easy way to reference them when needed in the future.

Some of the manufacturers also have YouTube channels where caregivers can find videos that may help them with a specific situation. It may even be helpful to keep a list of the manufacturer websites and YouTube channels in your tech kit for reference. The CPS Board YouTube channel is a great place to start if you are not familiar with the use of channels:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cpsboard>

Some other CR manufacturer YouTube channels:

- [Baby Trend](#)
- [Britax USA](#)
- [Bubble Bum](#)
- [Chicco](#)
- [Clek](#)
- [Diono](#)
- [Dorel](#)
- [Evenflo](#)
- [4 Moms](#)
- [Graco](#)
- [Orbit](#)
- [Recaro](#)

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

Check Out These Two New NHTSA Reports

2015 Motor Vehicle Crashes -Overview: The nation lost 35,092 people in crashes on U.S. roadways during 2015, an increase from 32,744 in 2014. The 7.2 percent increase is the largest percentage increase in nearly 50 years. The largest percentage increase previously was an 8.1 percent increase from 1965 to 1966.

Read the [report](#).

Lives Saved in 2015 by Restraint Use and Minimum Drinking Age Laws: In 2015, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 13,941 lives of occupants 5 and older, and an estimated 2,573 lives of occupants 13 and older were saved by frontal air bags. An estimated 266 child occupants 4 and younger were saved by the use of child restraints, and 1,772 lives were saved by the use of motorcycle helmets. An additional 2,804 lives would have been saved in 2015 if all unrestrained passenger occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts. Similarly, if all motorcyclists had been helmeted, then an additional 740 lives would have been saved. An estimated 537 lives were also saved due to minimum-drinking-age laws.

Read the [report](#).

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)

[Advances in Child Injury Prevention Conference](#)

Plymouth, Mich.

November 14, 2016

[Safe Travel for All Children](#)

Greenville, SC

November 15-16, 2016

[Lifesavers Traffic Safety Conference](#)

Charlotte, NC

March 26-28, 2017

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Denver, Colo.

August 31 – September 2, 2017

Online Courses

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

Upcoming Live Webinars

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

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

Can I use my smartphone? [Read More](#)

Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Merritt Manufacturing, Inc.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Safe Sleep and CPS: Recommendations and Policies

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

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

For Instructors

It's Not Too Early

Make plans to help celebrate National CPST Month and teach a Certification Course in May. All members of the instructor team will get a special, limited edition thank you from Safe Kids.

It's Not Over 'til It's Over

Add 15 minutes to the end of any tech update and have the techs log in and enter the CEUs in their online profiles. They can use the [Forgot Your Password](#) link at the log in page or call Customer Service (877-366-8154) if they need their username or password.

Course Administration Q&A

We just got approval to offer a course but it is within the 6-week registration deadline. Can you help?

Safe Kids can usually accommodate requests for expedited courses. Please add the course online using dates the system will accept and then email Safe Kids (Kerry: kchausmer@safekids.org) with the Course ID and actual dates and times. We will confirm when the course profile is updated.

Two students came to class and they are not on the roster. They handed me a check for their course fees. What should I do?

First, please make sure the check is made payable to Safe Kids Worldwide. If you have seats available in your course, you have two options to get them on the roster:

1. To get them on the roster, ask if their agency can fax (917-305-9876) or email (cps.certification@safekids.org) a PO. If so, make sure they include the course ID and SKIDs/names of the students. Be sure to write CLASS STARTS TODAY on the cover page. Call Customer Service (877-366-8154) as soon as it is sent so they can be on the lookout and process it promptly.

OR

2. Contact Customer Service and let them know that the check is being mailed. Be sure to include the course ID and names/SKIDs. Follow up to be sure it is received and processed. Once the payment is processed they will be on the roster. Contact the application processing specialist, Wardell, directly at 212-367-4384.

What should I do if another instructor goes off the standardized curriculum?

All instructors have a responsibility to make sure courses are run according to the Instructor Guide (IG) and Policies & Procedures (P&P). First, talk with the instructor and work together to make a course correction. The Lead Instructor is ultimately responsible so be sure they are included and everyone works together to provide a course according to standardized policy. We all have an important role as part of the team. If you are not comfortable bringing it up to the instructor directly, talk with the course Lead. You must act promptly. We all have an obligation to maintain the standards of the course.

When you recertify, you agree to follow all P&P:

I have read and do hereby agree to adhere to the content of the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program, including the curriculum published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and procedures set forth by the certifying body when performing child passenger safety educational functions. Failure to

comply with these procedures and guidelines may result in my certification being suspended or revoked.

How long do I need to keep all my course documents, like answer sheets?

Once the course is finalized, that is the official record. You should keep the answer sheets and agendas (with teaching times) for a few months in case there is an appeal or there are any questions about teaching hours. The maximum you would need to keep anything is one certification cycle, or two years. Consider scanning the answer sheets and teaching time notes so you have them available if you need to refer back to them, especially if storage is an issue.

Who should instructors contact if they have questions about what they **can and can't do with the curriculum?**

If you are unsure of what you can and can't do, contact Safe Kids certification without delay. Contact Kerry: kchausmer@safekids.org, 202-662-0639 or Kim: kherrmann@safekids.org, 202-329-0783.

How should instructors provide suggestions on the curriculum?

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is interested in your suggestions and ideas. Use the Feedback form on their [web site](#). Do not "improve" the program on your own. The strength of the national certification is its standardization. You must teach the entire curriculum, following the stated policies.

I am a long-time instructor. **Shouldn't I have more leeway in terms of what we cover?**

All instructors have to follow the curriculum, even if you were certified years ago. We have to continually stay updated, get rid of old materials and refresh our knowledge. So much has changed in just the past few years!

Pre-course meetings are required, even if you have been teaching together on a regular basis for a number of years. Review the pre-course meeting [FAQ](#).

What is a quick way to improve how courses are administered and managed?

The best thing to do is let go of the old!

Get rid of old copies of curriculum materials. You don't need them! Many resources (what used to be the appendix) are on the [CPS Board web site](#).

Review your car seats and be sure to provide a good mix of older and newer seats. Try to include seats that are common in the communities you serve.

Get rid of old habits. Don't refer back to "how we used to teach" or "what we used to see". Keep it simple for the students and tell them the current information, not the old way and then the new. Is your team using the newest terminology (rear facing only seats) and techniques (no more knee in the seat!)? The Top 10 [LET IT GO](#) tip sheet is a quick reference.

How should quizzes be graded?

Start by reviewing the test instructions and basic testing practices with the instructor team at the pre-course meeting. As directed, read the instructions for each quiz to the class. Be sure to provide a reading room as many participants do better if they both see and hear the questions and answers.

Do not score a quiz with the participant watching. This just increases their stress! Be sure all quizzes and answer sheets have their name on it. This assures you collect them all and can easily ID if any are missing.

Of course, no answers can be changed after it is handed in. If they misread a question or meant to write a different answer, they still lose those points. These participants may, again, benefit from having the quizzes read to them.

Provide each participant with their score. This can be done in individual meetings, or, once everyone is done, handout the quizzes and go over missed questions. Be sure to allow an opportunity for participants to talk privately if they have any questions about their scores.

Want more?

Check out the [Course Administration FAQs](#).

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.

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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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