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CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



April 2015

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2014 Certification Program

The National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program had a great year. Safe Kids launched two new programs: National CPST month and the Bilingual Technician Course.

Quick facts about the program in 2014:

- There were 9,132 new certifications, up from 8,553 in 2013.
- There were 674 certification courses (up from 655 in 2013) held in all 50 states, the District of Columbia (1), China (2), Guam (1), Israel (1), the Northern Mariana Islands (2), Puerto Rico (1), Qatar (3), the Virgin Islands (2), and an Air Force base in Italy (1). This averages 56.2 courses each month.
- Percentage recertified: 56.0%
- Eleven percent of techs who recertified were [audited for CEUs](#). A total of 1051 (up from 1016 in 2013) technicians from all 50 states, Armed Forces Europe, the Northern Mariana Islands, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates were selected to be audited. No technician failed the audit.

Read the [report](#). We are a success together. Thank you for all you do!

CPS Board Announces 2014 Technician and Instructor of the Year

The National Child Passenger Safety Board applauds every person working in the field of child passenger safety, no matter their job title. The efforts made in this field should be considered one of the most successful public health and injury prevention campaigns of our time. The success lies in lives saved, serious injuries prevented, and the number of medical professionals and caregivers educated to restrain properly our most vulnerable passengers. None of this could be accomplished without “boots on the ground,” an army of dedicated technicians and instructors who work passionately to ensure the safety of our nation’s children. It is in that spirit that we announce the 2014 winners.

The announcement was made at the Lifesavers Conference in Chicago, on March 14th, where both winners received the CPS Board award and \$500 from AAA.

Instructor of the Year: Suzanne Cash LeDoyen

Suzanne Cash LeDoyen from Wake County Human Services Public Health Center has been a technician for 14 years and an instructor for five years. Suzanne was also named North Carolina’s Instructor of the Year in 2014. She holds a degree in Public Health from East Carolina University and is also nationally certified as an Instructor with the American Red Cross, and as a Childbirth and Parenting Instructor. She works with a team of nurses, social workers and case managers who made the commitment to become CPS technicians in addition to their existing job responsibilities. The team provides monthly car seat checks and also operates a permanent safety seat “fitting station” for the Wake County community. Suzanne and her co-workers became passionate about preventing crash-related injuries as the result of witnessing a high number of unrestrained children. “We must diligently work to bring awareness to our communities and help people realize that we all have a part to play in the safety of children,” said LeDoyen.



Suzanne shared her secret for maintaining motivation in the child passenger safety and injury prevention field, “I was raised that it is better to serve than to be served. I get great pleasure and satisfaction from my work. I truly believe you get more out of life the more you put into it; if I’m not enthusiastic and passionate about my work how could I expect the technicians I instruct to be? I simply refuse to be anything less.”

Technician of the Year: Shawn Vovericz

Shawn Vovericz, a Life Skills Caseworker for the Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families, is a graduate of Bloomsburg University with a degree in social work. She has been a social worker with Chester County DCYF since 1993. She became a certified technician in 2001 and has been educating families about proper safety seat for 13 years. She remains passionate about this role because in her own words, “Due to the fact that vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the United States and there is still a large percentage of misuse; education is a huge part of what I do.”

What sets her apart is her determination to stay current in new vehicle and safety seat technology. “I do try to infuse humor when appropriate in order to engage the parent or caretaker, community collateral and co-workers. In addition, I am always seeking to gain knowledge from other technicians who may use other engagement and delivery approaches when explaining child passenger laws and information to others.”

Read more about the winners on the [CPS Board website](#).

Submitted by Diana Dias, Communications Committee, CPS Board (Providence, RI)

Road Map for Safer Cars 2020

Passenger vehicles in high income countries are safer than ever before, due to innovations in technology and improved regulation. Low and middle income countries, where the risk of road injury is the highest in the world, don’t have this level of safety.

[Global NCAP’s](#) report, *Democratising Car Safety: Road Map for Safer Cars 2020*, outlines the need for all new cars sold worldwide to meet basic safety standards for both crash protection and crash avoidance by 2020. New cars sold all over the world would pass the minimum United Nations standards for crashworthiness and crash avoidance.

The strategy detailed in the report has ten key recommendations, including policies to sustain the safety of the vehicles once in use and a proposed industry voluntary commitment to implement minimum occupant safety standards to all new passenger cars.

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 FAQ](#)

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 improve our customer service!

GENERAL | [Top](#)

By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children in hot cars

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

Details are available at <http://ggweather.com/heat>

CPS Recertification

- **2015:** 53.7 percent (January-March)
- **2014:** 56.0 percent
- **2013:** 58.5 percent
- **2012:** 54.9 percent

New to You?

Technicians can't possibly know everything about every seat, which is why we take care to read labels and manuals. The [CPS Board](#) updated two handy tip sheets on their [Additional Resources](#) page:

- [Less Common Situations](#) (Rev 2015)
- [Key CPST Reminders](#) (Rev 2015)

Whether you check seats as weekend warrior or a few times a year, these tips will help you stay on track.

Auditor Alcove: Oh, Snap!

So, you're are sitting at an in-person CEU session, you spent the day learning lots of new things, you networked with some colleagues, and the day is just about over. The session coordinator announces that certificates of attendance will be passed out. The pre-approval ID is on the certificate, along with your name. This certificate will be needed in case of an audit and can NOT be replaced if lost. Does the panic start to set in??

Instead of wondering where you can put the certificate so you actually remember where it is if you need it, pull out your phone, snap a pic, and email it to yourself. Put something in the subject line that is easily searchable, such as "audit" or "CEU docs". Then, if you get an email from me after you recertify, all you need to do is search for that email and forward it to me.

If you have an idea that would make things easier for other CPSTs or CPSTIs, please share it with us. If you have any questions about CEUs, what documentation is required, or [audits](#), please e-mail cpsaudit@safekids.org.

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

Fact or Fiction:

Recalled Seats Need to be Replaced

FICTION: Recalled seats may or may not need to be replaced. It will depend upon the child seat manufacturer recall remedy and their instructions should always be followed. A CR may be recalled because of a safety defect that could reduce the effectiveness of the seat in a crash, pose a non-crash-related hazard, or due to an error on the label or instructions.

The basis for a recall is “non compliance”. Keep recalls in perspective. The term “recall” is a generic term that is used to indicate the need for: Repair, Replacement, Refund, or a warning. Contacting the manufacturers customer service by calling the number listed on the labeling on the car seat can assist the technician or caregiver in clarifying the action required. Checking for recalls is included on checkup event forms and providing the appropriate explanation to a caregiver is a vital part of what technicians do in assisting families.

Depending upon the instructions of the car seat manufacturer, the car seat may be able to be used until the replacement component is available. The child is better protected by a recalled seat than no seat at all.

Technicians at an event or at their inspection station are under no obligation to replace recalled seats. Like car seats that are checked that are old or damaged, recall information is carefully noted in the checklist and discussed with the caregiver. If there are local resources to do so, that is a wonderful option, but there is no obligation to do so.

Tech Tips and Resources:

- Keep the customer service number of the car seat manufacturers on your cell phone for easier access.
- Have the caregiver talk directly to the manufacturer customer service representative.
- Always use the checklist to document the recall, action taken at the event and next steps for the caregiver.
- Manufacturer contact lists are available on the CPS Board [website](#) and at [Recalls.gov](#).
- Links to several recall lists are available on the CPS Certification [website](#).

If the caregiver did not send in the car seat registration card, encourage them to contact the manufacturer and follow their instructions. Always document the recommendations that have been provided to the caregiver on the checklist form.

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

Featured FAQs: What are the Latest Versions of the Instructor Materials for the Certification and Renewal Testing Courses?

The standardized courses were updated in March 2014 and revised in February 2015.

- Certification Course - Manuals dated March 2014. DVD dated March 2014, REV 2/2015
- Renewal Testing Course- DVD dated March 2014, REV 2/2015

Both courses are on the same DVD. Updates may be found on the CPS Board [website](#).

The Technician Guide is available for [download](#).

Instructors can purchase a USB with the updated curriculum using this [order form](#).

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.

Alexis Kagiliery (Boynton Beach, FL)
Safe Kids Worldwide Representative

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I am a new member. I just started this past January.

- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** Although I am new the Board, I am an experienced technician, originally certified in 1998. Two years later I became an Instructor.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** I incorporated being a CPS Advocate into my hospital position as a Child Life Specialist and Safe Kids Coalition Coordinator for Palm Beach County.
- **Who taught your first certification course?** My instructors were Lori Antolino and Paige Ashley.
- **Advice for the field:** Always keep yourself updated with new technology and mentoring others in the field.
- **What are your hobbies:** Gardening, ROTC activities, tennis, traveling
- **Tell us about your family:** I have two wonderful teenagers. Spencer is 17 and Olivia is 16.

JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS | [TOP](#)

Yay! Mail!

All Instructors and Instructor Candidates were sent a new curriculum DVD. Did you not get a new DVD? Double check that the official mailing address in your online profile is correct and then email [Kerry](#) to request another DVD and we'll drop a new one in the mail.

Are you using PPT 2007 or older? Please test the videos and see these [instructions](#).

CPST Month Update

Have you seen our posts on [Facebook](#)? We are spreading the word about next month being CPST Month, when we promote CPS Certification to increase the number of new techs. Our goal is a whopping 100 Certification Courses and we are at 65.

We need your help. Please, teach a course in May and teach more people about what we all know and love, CPS!

Not only will you earn [teaching hours](#) for your recertification, we will send out limited edition CPST Month 2015 pins to May lead instructors to share with their teaching team. One certification course will be randomly selected as a winner and each instructor on the course roster will be sent a CPST Instructor polo shirt, courtesy of Safe Kids.

Because you asked: You are welcome to use this fill-in-the-blank [course promotion press release](#).

We appreciate your dedication, especially this May! Thank you for all you do!

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)

[Buckle Up Missouri CPS Conference](#)

Location: Springfield, Missouri

Dates: May 27-28, 2015

[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/1DlLr7> 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: LATCH 2015: What the Curbside Tech Needs to Know

Thu, May 21, 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: 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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