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July 1, 2013

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Need Tech or Instructor tees or polos? Travel mugs? Event signs? Training dolls? [Look no further!](#)

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Announcements and Notices

National Child Passenger Safety Week

Mark your calendars! Child Passenger Safety Week is September 15 - 21, 2013 with National Seat Check Saturday on September 21.

NHTSA has a number of copyright-free materials to promote child car seat safety to increase community awareness on how to properly secure our kids in car seats and seat belts.

Supporting this child safety campaign can be as simple as posting messages on Facebook or retweeting content from our account on Twitter.

For child seat inspection stations, NHTSA developed a toolkit with new Chuggington-themed traffic safety material. Its main purpose is to engage the children with entertaining and educational materials while their parents and caregivers check the proper installation and use of their child seats in a friendly "Chuggington-like" environment.

Check it out at <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/cps>.

Op Kids: Next Generation

A Basic CPS Awareness Course was produced to help create awareness of the importance of child passenger safety education and enforcement in preventing child passenger deaths and injuries and to provide basic knowledge on the issue to groups and individuals who can benefit from this information. Operation Kids: Next Generation is not a certification course and should not be confused with the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. Those who complete this course will be able to detect major and potentially harmful CPS and seat belt law violations; provide very basic instruction to parents on correct child car seat selection and use; assist at checkup/inspection station and support effective public safety partnerships.

The intended audience for this class is primarily directed toward law enforcement personnel, health care providers, child care providers and fire and rescue professionals. It is important to remember that military personnel represent many of the same audiences as their civilian counterparts. You can find the course on the National CPS Board Website at: <http://cpsboard.org/tech-instructor-curriculum/operation-kids/>

Submitted by Carole Guzzetta, NHSTA Headquarters Representative, CPS Board (Washington, DC)

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 1/1/2013) - No revisions or updates in June.

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Recertification

Recertification Reminder

- Recertification Details >> [Learn More](#)
- Recertification FAQs >> [Learn More](#)

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:

1. [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.
 - o [How To Enter a Seat Check video](#)
2. [Community education](#) (choose one):
 - o 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
 - o 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.
3. A minimum of six hours of [CPS technical continuing education units](#) earned and reported during a current two-year certification cycle.
 1. You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required
 2. 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
 3. 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 4 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 4 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 >> **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!

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By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children left in hot cars

- 2013: 15
- 2012: 32
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

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

CPS Recertification

- 2013: 57.4 percent (Jan-June)
 - 2012: 54.7 percent
 - 2011: 55.4 percent
 - 2010: 50.3 percent
-

Auditor Alcove: Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot

Summer is finally here! Once my kids are out of school I usually get pretty busy working seat checks. Families are preparing for their summer vacations and want to make sure their precious cargo is being transported as safely as possible.

With an increase in seat check events in the summer months, it is important to make sure everyone stays properly hydrated and protected from the sun. When planning your events, be sure to provide water and sunscreen to your volunteers. It may even be a good idea to designate one of your volunteers to be the "hydration specialist". Their job is to walk around passing out cold water. I know it can sometimes be difficult to take a few minutes to go get my own water when there is a lineup of cars waiting.

If you do not have tents or an indoor facility, providing sunscreen will help prevent the "seat check burn" that most of us have had at least once. Your hydration specialist could even rotate between providing water and sunscreen reapplications (perhaps invest in the spray bottles)!

Summer seat checks are also a great time to talk to parents about leaving children alone in a vehicle. There have already been at 15 deaths of children unattended in vehicles this year. Whether intentionally or unintentionally left alone in the car, these deaths are preventable. Use your skills to communicate to parents the danger of hyperthermia. For more information on vehicle hyperthermia, visit www.ggweather.com/heat/, <http://www.safekids.org/heatstroke> or www.nhtsa.gov/safety/hyperthermia.

Enjoy your summer by staying hydrated and sun-blocked!

If you have any questions about CEUs, what documentation is required, or audits, please email cpsaudit@safekids.org.

Splitter Plate Options

When reading the June 2013 issue of CPS Express, I couldn't help but think how the world of CPS constantly changes. I became a technician in 2000 and an instructor in 2001. Even some of the information I originally learned and thought to be very basic has changed. Last month's CPS Express had a good example in the article on non-regulated products. We definitely warned against those in 2001. Several car seat manufacturers now make and sell items specifically for their products that do not come originally with their products. Explanation is needed to reinforce that all products sold are not tested with each car seat, but some may be approved for use. Consumers should be educated as such.

Another area that might seem basic is attaching the harness straps to the splitter plate. Even though I am a long-time CPST Instructor, I still review owner's manuals. And that's a very good thing! I would like to share with you two examples that prove the importance of checking those instruction manuals.

Manufacturers have specific ways in which we are to adjust the straps when there are two loop options on the harness. On the Graco SnugRide models that adjust from the front, the instructions state "the ends of the straps must hang in front of the metal junction plate" (aka splitter plate). Graco even uses the sign to mark the incorrect method.

However, the Evenflo SureRide Titan 65 shows the opposite is necessary for correct use. This is just one more example that confirms how necessary it is to read the instructions to understand even the most "basic" details of car seat use and adjustment. The field changes all the time!

Submitted by Melba King, Lead Program Coordinator, Special Needs Car Seat Program, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Atlanta, GA)

Inflatable Seat Belts: Update

Inflatable vehicle shoulder belts available by Ford are an innovative extension of air bag and seat belt technology for occupant protection. Child restraint manufacturers and safety advocates recognize the potential benefits to adult passengers but are concerned

with how this may impact our child passengers.

The June 1, 2012 Express article on Inflatable Seat Belts provided a list of child restraint manufacturer policies. This list has been updated to reflect any changes in those policies as of June 1, 2013. Although there are few changes and additional manufacturers listed, manufacturers continue to evaluate inflatable seat belt compatibility and will update recommendations and revise statements as new data becomes available.

Check out the new [June 2013 list](#). As always, the manufacturer provides the bottom line...always read and follow their directions.

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

Featured FAQ: [Do I need liability protection as a CPST/CPSTI? \(June 7, 2013\)](#)

Safe Kids, as the certifying body for the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program, does not provide liability insurance for individual technicians or instructors. Most child passenger safety activities, including car seat checkup events, are covered by an employer or by the agency sponsoring the event. Wherever the event, keep these tips in mind:

- Always discuss liability concerns with your employer. You may be covered under a general liability policy.
- Always use a checklist whenever you check a car seat. The form will guide you through the process, so it is important that it be fully and accurately filled out. This serves as your key documentation of how the child arrived and left your checkup. Be sure the parent or caregiver signs your checklist before you begin to work with them.
- Teach correct installation and use of child restraints and seat belts based on best practices, including active participation by the caregiver. Do not go beyond your scope of practice as a health educator.
- Use appropriate resources such as child restraint instructions, vehicle owner's manuals and up to date recall lists. At every checkup event, have a copy of the latest LATCH manual and the child restraint manufacturers' instructions CD.
- After you have completed the checkup, review the form to be sure all items are completed accurately. Document your findings, particularly if a caregiver chooses not to follow best practices or to correct identified misuse.
- Have a clear written policy about replacement seats and how to dispose of old unsafe seats.
- When possible, have a fellow technician review the installation, checklist form and caregiver education.
- Safety is a priority for everyone at an event.

Featured FAQ: [I am a CPST independent contractor, should I have liability coverage? \(June 7, 2013\)](#)

As an independent contractor, you may consider carrying your own professional liability

insurance. You may look into companies that offer insurance to part-time or full-time Health and Safety Educators. The annual fee will be influenced by how much coverage you want. A couple of examples (not recommendations or endorsement of any kind) include the American Council of Healthcare Professionals – Allied Healthcare Professional Insurance Center, <http://ahc.lockton-ins.com/pl/coveredProfessions.html> and the Healthcare Providers Service Organization, www.hpsso.com. Contact your homeowner insurance provider to see what they recommend for you. When searching for insurance, be sure the provider understands that you are an educator – that you do not install car seats. Be prepared to explain the training, certification and continuing education requirements for your technician status.

- Always use a checklist whenever you check a car seat. The form will guide you through the process, so it is important that it be fully and accurately filled out. This serves as your key documentation of how the child arrived and left your checkup. Be sure the parent or caregiver signs your checklist before you begin to work with them.
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- Have a clear written policy about replacement seats and how to dispose of old unsafe seats.
- When possible, have a fellow technician review the installation, checklist form and caregiver education.
- Safety is a priority for everyone at an event.

Notes from the [CPS Board](#): CEU Toolkit

Are you interested in helping your area's CPSTs earn CEUs but don't know where to start? The CPS Board has put together a CEU Toolkit with everything you need to set up an in-store update. You can find it at CPSBoard.org under Certification+Recertification. Items include a sample letter to store managers asking for permission to hold the update, a sample invitation to techs, several sample agendas, and much more.

Please use the materials and send in ideas for additional items to offer. We encourage you to take advantage of the sample items and make them your own!

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Requests to Attend Controlled Courses

Controlled courses are a great way to restrict attendance. This may be due to local funding or support. Lead instructors get email notification when a request is submitted. Course Administrators can also review registration requests but they will not get the

notification email.

Many controlled courses show available seats even if they are actually intended to be used. A potential technician candidate may see that there are plenty of open seats and expect to get in. One way to manage expectation is edit the course description. You can include a statement that the course is intended for employees of ABC Company.

Please don't leave a potential student waiting with no guidance by reviewing requests regularly. If you are unsure if they will be able to take a set in your class, please reach out to them so they are in the loop. Many times, they have blocked off the time from work, received permission to attend and are waiting to hear if they will be in the course.

If you have any questions about how to edit the Course Description or controlled courses, please don't delay in seeking guidance! We are here to help. Contact Kerry at kchausmer@safekids.org or 202-662-0639.

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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](#).

Online Courses

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

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

Kidz In Motion

Location: Santa Ana Pueblo (Albuquerque), New Mexico

Dates: August 26-29, 2013

For more information: www.kidzinmotion.org

Maine Child Passenger Safety Conference

Location: Freeport, ME

Dates: September 8-10, 2013

For more information: <http://1.usa.gov/Zw0r61>

Midwest Regional Child Passenger Safety Conference

Location: Council Bluffs, Iowa

Dates: September 9-10, 2013

For more information: THOMPSB3@IHS.ORG

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](#)

Up Coming Webinars

Safe Kids and State Farm Present: Dorel Child Restraints

July 11, 2013 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)

Fees/Requirements: \$0, Pre-registration is required.

Register now: <http://bit.ly/2013Dorel>

Safe Kids and State Farm Present: IMMI Child Restraints

August 22, 2013 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)

Fees/Requirements: \$0, Pre-registration is required.

Register now: <http://bit.ly/2013IMMI>

More webinars coming soon!

Mid-month updates posted at www.facebook.com/cpscrt.

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 will be edited for content and length.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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