



Child Passenger Safety



The 5th Annual Alaska Child Passenger Safety Technician Conference

September 10-11, 2012

The Alaska Injury Prevention Center and Safe Kids Alaska coordinated the 5th Annual Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Conference held in Anchorage Alaska. The purpose of this conference is nationally certified CPS Technicians from all over the state gather for the purpose of obtaining the necessary components to maintain national certification. These requirements include six continuing education units (CEUs), meeting with certified instructors to demonstrate the ability to properly install 5 car seats, and participate in a two hour community car seat check up event.

A nationally recognized speaker traveled from Colorado to present 4 of the 6 CEUs. Susan Yates, Training Coordinator of the Colorado Child Passenger Safety Program with the Children's Health Advocacy Institute (CHAI) and Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute, wowed technicians with an interactive Child Passenger Safety Update focusing on actual case studies based on NHTSA's 4-step's For Kids Format. In each step (rear-facing, forward-facing, booster & seat belt) she discussed best practice, real world issues and how to problem solve them. She presented several case studies in each

**47 CPS Technicians
from 14 Alaska communities
attended the conference.**

step and talked about real MVC patients, the dynamics of their crash, restraint use, misuse or nonuse, and their outcomes.

Angela Davis of Fairbanks presented one CEU on Misuse in the Field. Her innovation in using the new check up form to recognize misuse and teach technicians to use the new form at the same time was inspired.

Mandi Seethaler of Anchorage presented the final CEU on New Technology in Child Passenger Safety. Through a hands-on activity technicians were able to explore the new technology in car seats.



Funding Provided by

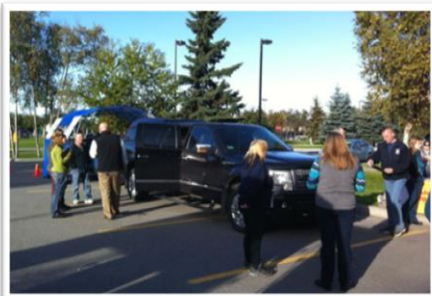
Alaska Injury Prevention Center ■ Alaska Highway Safety Office ■ State of Alaska DHHS ■ Safe Kids Alaska
 BP generously provided the use of their conference center at no charge.
 Residence Inn Marriott provided a discounted hotel rate for technicians.

Toward Zero Deaths

Everyone Counts on Alaska's Roadways

Car Seat Check Up Event

Technicians walked a few steps from the conference to participate in a two hour Car Seat Check Up Event. The BP Day Care Center, located just steps outside the conference center was an ideal location. As parents picked up their children from day care, certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians were available to work with parents and caregivers to ensure that their children were properly restrained. This was an opportunity for our CPS Coalition to offer our service as a thank you in return for BP's generosity in providing an excellent venue for our conference. Twenty-two car seats were checked and many technicians participated for the first time in a large scale event!



National CPS Week
 September 16-22, 2012
State of Alaska
 Seat Check Saturday 9/22/12
6 events, 64 seat checks,
36 seats distributed

Open House – AIPC

The Alaska Injury Prevention Center hosted an Open House after the conference on Tuesday. In order to recertify all technicians are required to install 5 car seats and have an instructor review and approve each installation. Many technicians do not have an instructor in their area, so this is their only opportunity for the required approval. Instructors also took the time to help each technician log into their profile on the national CPS website and update it with the certification elements they just obtained. This was also an opportunity for technicians to talk to instructors about their individual needs and questions. They were able to network with other technicians and share ideas about which techniques works in their area and how to overcome unique CPS challenges.

I just wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful conference. I truly appreciate all the funding, time and work that you and your agencies put into planning and pulling off this much needed opportunity for Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) to receive their CEUs. I have truly realized the value of providing this type of educational venue and what it does in keeping CPST involved, current and rewarded for their involvement in CPS. This only will add to the sustainability and quality of our CPS programs. Thanks! Jane

*Jane B. Fellman RN
 Safe Kids Kenai Peninsula Coalition
 Central Peninsula Hospital*

Thanks for all the hard work you guys put into the conference!!! It was a really great experience to participate in a car seat event other than our own. It was fun to see how it all comes together with that many techs!

Jennifer Adams Juneau Police Dept.

Bucket Babies

Mary Pomeroy of Ability Pediatric Physical Therapy was a surprise hit with the technicians. This presentation on "Bucket Babies" discussed the long term developmental dangers of leaving children in their infant car seats unnecessarily. This is valuable information that technicians can share curbside with caregivers during a car seat check up. The best part of this presentation was that it was new information and helped remind us all that there is always something to be learned.

Car crashes are the number one killer of children 1 to 12 years old in the United States. The best way to protect them in the car is to put them in the right seat, at the right time, and use it the right way.