

Child Passenger Safety Technician Conference

September 12-13, 2013



One Conference, Two Days, All Recertification Requirements

The Alaska Injury Prevention Center with their partners and sponsors, Safe Kids Alaska and the Alaska Highway Safety Office brought nationally recognized speakers, Amy Teddy and Amber Kroeker, to Anchorage, to present a two day Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician Conference to 51 CPS Technicians. This conference was designed specifically for Alaskan CPS Technicians and Instructors

and presented an opportunity for all to participate in the necessary activities to maintain national certification. The BP Energy Center in Anchorage Alaska, generously allowed us to use their beautiful conference center at no charge. Day one started at noon so that our technicians driving from communities outside of Anchorage would have time to leave in the morning and make it to the conference on time. Four

continuing education units (CEUs) were presented on Thursday, followed by a 2-Hour Car Seat Check Up Event held at the Sears parking lot just across the street from the BP Energy Center. The following day, two additional CEUs were presented to complete the six required for recertification. Alaska CPS Instructors were present at an Open House that afternoon at the Alaska Injury Prevention Center

What are the best ways to protect your children? Place them in the right car seats for their ages and size, install them correctly, and ensure that the seats fit in your vehicle.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

The CPS Board and NHTSA are finalizing the revised CPS curriculum. Current Instructors should receive their copy of the teaching materials around January 1, 2014. The CPS Board will host a webinar in early January to walk through the changes and provide some tips. Instructors will begin teaching the new curriculum March 2014!



Alaska CPS Technician Recertification Rate

Alaska's Federal Fiscal Year recertification rate for CPS Technicians was 48.6% in 2012. As of now are currently at 55.7%; a

14.6% increase!

Way to go, thank you for your involvement in this increase!

The Alaska CPS instructors/region leaders have made this positive change with increased efforts towards helping technicians recertify by:

- Contacting and mentoring technicians individually
- Reminding technicians of certification expiration date
- Meeting with technicians for 5-Seat Check Off's
- Annual CPS conference providing all recertification requirements
- Long range planning with potential tech candidates/agencies
- Focusing on quality technicians versus quantity of new technicians.

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ALASKA**



Car Seat Check Up Event Sear's Parking Lot, Anchorage

and were available to sign off on 5 Car Seat Installation Check Offs, answer any CPS question and help technicians update their on-line profile. This was also an opportunity for networking. Many of our technicians are the only one in their community; having time to work with local instructors is a valuable tool in supporting our rural technicians. Our main funder, the Alaska Highway Safety Office (AHSO) made it possible for 13 rural technicians to travel to Anchorage by providing scholarships. Without this funding these technicians would not have been able to maintain

their certification. They traveled from communities all over the state, such as, North Pole, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Cordova, Soldotna, Big Lake, Sitka and Klawock. Jane Fellman, Safe Kids Kenai Peninsula Coalition at Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna, used AHSO funds to provide travel assistance for 5 technicians from her area. Our partner, Safe Kids Alaska (SKA) was essential in making this conference possible. To maximize our teaching time, working meals were provided by SKA. Additionally, SKA paid the registration fee for many of the attendees.

'Overall, I felt it was informative and worth my time. Nice meeting people too! Thanks!'

Belts, Boosters and Bodies

Amber provided actual case studies to teach CPS Technicians to better understand belt fit variables, identify real world consequences of improper belt fit, identify a 50th percentile 8 year old female child on a growth chart and explain U.S. trends in restraint use among 4 to 7 year olds. The CPS technicians of Alaska are primarily nurses, EMT, firefighters and other health professionals. Previous input from technicians indicated that real life case study in conjunction with new information really brings the message home and makes it relatable. With her case studies, Amber was a dynamic speaker and reinforced the message that 4 to 8 year old children are at an increased risk of injury due to improper restraint. She stressed that CPS technicians should educate parents on the importance of proper transition from booster seat to seat belt; to not focus on age, but focus on body fit.

She engaged the audience well, was clear and concise and encouraged feedback.

It Does What? Looking at New Vehicle Technology

This session taught technicians to identify and explain the function of two types of vehicle airbags, to identify current technology in place for increasing the use of seatbelts, recognize “In and Around Car” safety technologies and understand new crash avoidance technologies. Inflatable seat belts are a hot topic—now CPS technicians understand how they work! These special features require that the car seat manufacturer and the car manufacture both agree on the use so be sure to check the manuals or refer to the new LATCH manual. Remember the days of the seat belt in the door? Through research, it has been established that most consumers favorably receive enhanced belt reminder systems. This presentation covered dynamic locking latch plates, front center airbags and inflatable seat belts. Electronic Stability Control will be mandatory in 100% of vehicles by MY2012; this could save more than 5000 lives! In and around car safety has many innovative new technologies. These technologies will continue to advance safety and decrease injury and death.



Amber Kroeker is a health educator in the Injury Prevention Program at the University of Michigan - C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and coordinator for Safe Kids Huron Valley. Mrs. Kroeker develops and facilitates community and hospital based interventions that prevent injuries to children 17 years of age and under, manages research projects pertaining to pediatric injury and trauma, and coordinates the Safe Sleep Taskforce at University of Michigan Hospital and Health Systems College. Mrs. Kroeker received her B.S. in microbiology and chemistry from Oregon State University and a Masters in Public Health from Oregon Health and Science University. Mrs. Kroeker is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and a Safe to Sleep Champion for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Toward Zero Deaths

Everyone Counts on Alaska’s Roadways

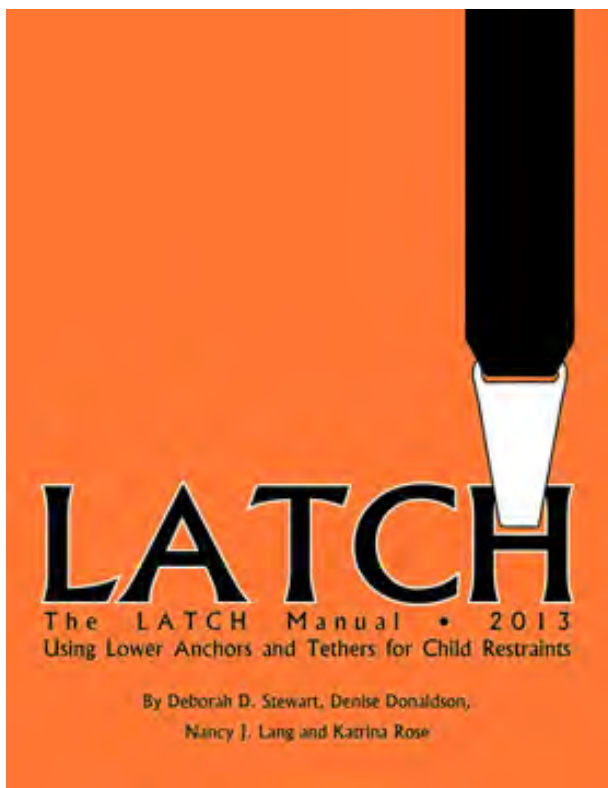
Amy Teddy is the Injury Prevention Program Manager at the University of Michigan - C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. In this position Amy develops and facilitates community-based interventions that prevent injuries to children, 17 years of age and under. These efforts involve creating safe environments, advocating for effective laws, research and educating adults and children. Prior to her current position, she served as Public Education Specialist for South Metro Fire Rescue in Colorado. Amy also served as Injury Prevention Specialist and Safe Kids Coordinator with the El Paso County Health Department in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Amy has served on the abstract review committee for the National Child Passenger Safety Conference (Kidz in Motion) and the Advocacy Advisory Committee for the Children's Hospital Association and currently serves on the Safe Kids Worldwide Advisory Council. Mrs. Teddy is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician/Instructor and Fire and Life Safety Educator I-II-III and Instructor.



From an attendee... Content and information was excellent and helpful!

CPS in the US – a closer look at educational gaps.

Amy reinforced the current AAP policy statement for child passengers, she discussed current practices and demographic factors associated with transitioning children to forward facing, identified information sources, examined child's anatomy as it relates to child safety and reinforced why riding rear facing is safest. Through charts, graphs and videos Amy provided technicians with tangible proof to back up the policy statements. She provided these tools for technicians to use and refer to back in their communities. The anatomy portion showed exactly why children should stay rear facing. Did you know it is 5.5 times safer until the age of two? Amy also let us know exactly where parents are getting their CPS information so that we can make sure we are getting the message to the right people. The second leading source after the car seat information book is doctors and nurses!



Latch vs Seat Belt

If you haven't realized the value of the new LATCH manual this session showed technicians that it's the most useful tool available. The original goal of installing LATCH in motor vehicle was to make car seat installation easier, but with the difficulty of using correctly and continual updating of weight limits, caregivers need CPS technicians more than ever to ensure installation is done properly. LATCH did not eliminate misuse. Remember that LATCH does not apply to boosters. As every technician knows, vehicle and CR manufactures have the final word for their products; check the manuals!

Down and Dirty with New Car Seats

The final two CEU's involved hands-on practice with new car seats. This was an excellent opportunity for technicians to get their hands on many new models. Armed with a checklist of things to look for and identify the room was buzzing with activity as technicians got to work.

Conference Evaluation

- 83% rated Amy Teddy as an excellent speaker
- 83% rated Amber Kroeker as an excellent speaker.
- 97% thought the conference length was just right
- 97% agree the content of the conference was appropriate and informative
- 100% would recommend the conference to others
- 97% plan to attend the next conference if funding allows.



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"It was inspiring to be among so many other techs and exciting to be a part of a car seat check-up event that was so big!"

What did you like most about the conference?

Getting together with other CPS members and learning about all the new safety features.
Information learned was a good refresher
meeting other CPS techs
I like the two day split: check-up event gives the opportunity to do an event at a different location; networking and problem solving with other technicians; hearing about research that confirms the importance of what we are doing
Great resource for obtaining current BMP, regulations and connecting with other CPS Tech
new stuff
The different seats
THE SPEAKERS WERE GOOD AND THE HOURS WE HAD WERE BETTER ALSO THE EXTRA DAY OVERNIGHT SO WE DID NOT HAVE TO CARRY OUR LUGGAGE AROUND.
The hands-on work with new car seats and visiting with other techs and hearing about their work situations.
The Alaska Injury Prevention Center was extremely instrumental in my participation at this conference. The injury center awarded scholarships that made the cost of this trip possible for me to attend. All of the details of the trip were taken care of for me so that I could focus on my full time job prior to departure to the conference. A special thanks to Mandi Seethaler for her flawless and hard work organizing this conference.
real take home info
new info and the location
Hands-on
updates on new stuff
The hours allowed for travel, keeping up on one's work, and shorter hours for each day kept participants fresh and tuned in.
The subject matter was very informative.
Haha, the food!!
Hands on experience with various seats. The way it is split up into half day sessions.
Research based presentations
The length of the conference was perfect and the speakers was just right.
Discussed upcoming changes in practice
Speakers did not represent any specific manufacturer.
interactive...
loved the half days so I didn't have to spend extra days in Anchorage. Saves money and time for out-of-towners.
1.) The location was very convenient. 2.) The sessions were perfect in length and very informative. 3.) Check up event was perfect length. Long enough to do a lot of checks in short period but not too long which might wear on people. 4.) Attendance was great and allowed for networking with other agencies. Helpful in gathering new ideas/techniques. Also very helpful during the event.
Case study's
The ability to be hands on and see new ideas. Also the networking with others in the state is a great opportunity!
Short session - good speakers
Networking with other CPS techs around the state.