



Buckle Up Express

FEATURING WYOMING'S CPS TEAM

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A WYDOT Highway Safety Program and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Injury Prevention

September Child Passenger Safety Class in Jackson



A student holds one of the new class dolls

Three instructors traveled to Jackson, Wyoming to hold the Child Passenger Safety Training on September 17-20, 2007. Three individuals successfully completed the course and three were assisted in the re-certification process. Two of the students came from Idaho to participate in the class.

Kathy Clay of Jackson took the first step in becoming a certified instructor. Kathy assisted the instructors throughout the entire week and the program is confident that she will be a fantastic instructor.

The Buckle Up Kids Program would like to thank the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Department for the use of their facility and David Auge at Teton Motors for the use of their vehicles.

Selling Secondhand / Recalled Seats

How do you react if you find a local thrift store selling secondhand or recalled seats?

Stephanie Tombrello, with SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. encourages all advocates with this concern to consider taking the survey form, #435, from www.carseat.org to the store and doing a checkup on the items they have on the shelves currently. Not only will you have the data but also it is a way of documenting to the owners what they have placed on sale to the public. Check for everything, including instructions. If you have a Color Pictorial, you might need it if the store is really open for anything. One reason the recall list includes warnings and replaceable parts is that some of these cases place children at risk, just like the actual recalls. The more concrete your report to them, the more likely they are to respond.

And then there is the liability issue. As sellers, they implicitly stand behind the items they carry. If they aren't willing to stop, SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. also has 2 versions of a form(434,434sm)--one is for those giving the seats and the other for the store manager to use to check the products. It's a useful tool for anyone who plans to hand down a seat to a friend or relative as well.

Re-certification 2007

Basic re-certification requirements and deadlines

- Five seat checks approved by a certified instructor or proxy
- Community education
- Minimum of six hours of CPS technical continuing education units
- Register and pay the re-certification fee **before your certification expiration date**

Community Education

OPTION 1: Two-hour check up event with at least one other CPS Technician at which you serve families using any standardized checklist to provide documentation, if needed.

OPTION 2: Provide at least four hours of community education. Examples include presenting to parents, educators, kids, organizations (PTAs, law enforcement). These are presentations to non-CPSTs. You are welcome to combine smaller events for the requirement.

Categories of CEUs (CEUs are self-certified and are subject to random auditing)

1. In-person Session/Workshop (maximum 6 CEUs)
2. Observing a CPS Certification or Renewal Course (max. 3 CEUs)
3. Teleconferences (max. 5 CEUs)
4. Online/Web sessions (max. 5 CEUs)
5. Newsletters/Manuals/Journals (max. 3 CEUs)

Technicians and instructors may mix and match categories to meet the six required hours of continuing education. All categories of CEUs must meet the content requirements of improving CPS technical knowledge such as LATCH, a child restraint manufacturer workshop or CPS technical update. Non-technical CPS sessions, such as how to get funding or run an inspection station, do not qualify.

Check up events, while valuable, do not qualify for CEUs, but do meet Option #1 of the Community Education Requirement.

Can I Get All 6 CEUs From My Office?

You don't even have to leave your office to earn credit for your 6 CEUs for re-certification. Below are ways you can do this. Remember to print the proof of your CEUs in case of auditing.

Newsletter Category/Max 3 in this Category)

- 1 CEU—Every Wyoming Technician is credited one CEU for receiving the Safe Ride News Publication. Contact nancy@saferidenews.com for Proof of Purchase
- 1 CEU— Take the LATCH Manual Quiz. Go to saferidenews.com to learn more
- 1 CEU—Take the CR Manufacturer's Quiz. Go to carseat.org to learn more

Online/Web Sessions Category/Max 5 in this Category

- 2 CEUs— Two presentations and Quizzes on the www.cpsboard.org Website
- 4 CEUs—View the Web Streaming and associated quizzes at <http://www.buckleupillinois.org/>

For a listing of community events, visit safekidswyoming.org.

Informative Websites:

- Safekidswyoming.org
Safe Kids Wyoming
- www.nhtsa.dot.gov
National Hwy Traffic Safety Administration
- www.safekids.org
Safe Kids Worldwide
- www.carseat.org
SafetyBeltSafe USA
- www.cpsboard.org
National Child Passenger Safety Board
- <http://wydotweb.state.wy.us>
Wyoming Department of Transportation
- www.carseatdata.org/
Car seat Compatibility List
- www.hsrec.unc.edu
Car Seat Recall List
- www.kidsncars.org
Kids Safe In and Around Cars

Why use the internet? The NHTSA website offers you the newest recalls, program information, and free materials. The CPS Board site provides Technician Update Reports on new products, techniques and recertification answers.

Quick Thoughts To Consider



Safely Transport Medical Equipment

The instructors of the Child Passenger Safety Training held in Jackson set up this misuse scenario for the students to consider. The scenario showed how important it is to safely store and secure medical devices such as apnea monitors, oxygen tanks, ventilators, walkers and crutches during travel so they do not become flying objects in the event of a crash or sudden stop. Try using the seat belts not being used by other passengers to strap down these items. Devices using batteries should have enough power for a least double the length of your trip.

A 1985 Car Seat Still In Use?

Sunny Merritt, a Child Passenger Safety Technician in Cody, Wyoming sent us this thought to consider.

I just wanted to tell you that we had an event in Meeteetse last night. I have to tell you about a seat that we replaced. The seat was missing all of it's labels. We could tell that it was very old just by looking at it. Then we really got to looking at the seat and you'll never guess how old this seat was. It was manufactured in 1985. Not, 2005 or 1995, but 1985. Isn't that insane!! I had to sort of "talk" the dad into letting us replace it with a new one because he had some odd "attachment" (his word) to this seat. If his wife wouldn't have persisted in replacing the seat, I don't think he would have. Then he wanted to know if the seat could be used as a rear-facing infant seat. It was just a FF seat with the big gigantic plastic thing that goes between the toddler's legs... no way of making it tighter/looser. The seat was so, so old!! It took a lot of explaining and education re: why the seat was better off being run over by a bulldozer than to be used for their 2 year old!

To view pictures of older model seats like this one, visit: <http://www.carseat.org/>

Current Advice For Using The Center Position With LATCH

Below are the recommendations from the LATCH Manual 2007, p. 23

- Use the center position with a LATCH restraint if:
 - 1) It is referenced in the vehicle owner's manual as a LATCH positions, or
 - 2) If both manufacturers allow the use of non-standard inner LATCH bars from the outboard position.
- Use the center safety belt (and tether, if appropriate) if one or both manufacturers prohibits use of inner bars.
- Use an outboard position if there is no center seating position (no safety belt or LATCH anchors) or if the center seat cushion has a hump or is otherwise unsuitable.
- Parents/caregivers who wish to use the center position with LATCH should not purchase a CR with a rigid attachment unless they know that the center position has bars with 11-inch spacing.

Lower Anchor Points without the Tether Anchor Point

The Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard for Lower Anchors with Tethers applies to:

1. passenger cars
2. MPVs and trucks with a GVWR 8500 lbs or less
3. buses (including school buses) with a GVWR 10,000 lbs or less

It does not apply to walk-in type vans, USPS vehicles, shuttle buses, funeral coaches or convertibles. With these exemptions, you may see seating positions with the Lower Anchors and not the Tether Anchors. But even in those cases, some exempted vehicles may indeed have these items, because it is not prohibited to meet a requirement voluntarily.



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Do Booster Seats Expire?

Some car seat manufacturers give an expiration date to all of their car seats, regardless of crash force use. Expiration of car seats is based on several factors, one of which is degradation of the plastic due to temperature cycling. A six year expiration date is a conservative estimate of when plastic strength begins to degrade. Some manufacturers have 8 year expirations. It is best to check the manual of your particular brand, or sometimes the back of the seat will have a stamped expiration stating "Do not use this seat after x date."

Boosters do not expire for the same reasons applied to convertible or infant seats. One issue with the harnessed seats is that the plastic where the harness is threaded takes a tremendous amount of the crash force during a crash. If the plastic has become brittle (something that can not be seen with the naked eye), then there is a possibility of the harness ripping out of the seat back during a crash and essentially freeing the child from the harness.

The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association suggests that car seats and boosters be replaced after 6 years. NHTSA encourages parents/caregivers to always call child restraint manufacturer for their recommendation. After calling Evenflo, Graco, Dorel and Britax, all suggest a six year expiration for booster seats. Dorel said that their recommendation is between 6-8 years. All of these manufacturers said that the reasons for the six year expiration are because of the degradation of the plastic and also the flammability standards of the seats.

The recommendation to all technicians and caregivers is to contact the manufacturer of the seat if you are unsure of the lifespan of the booster.