**Why Verification Matters**

The primary purpose of having an instructor/technician proxy witness and verify seat checks is to observe your interaction with parents and children. Direct observation helps ensure that communication with parents is accurate and consistent with the information and methodologies in the standardized curriculum. The verifying instructor or technician proxy must feel confident in your ability to communicate accurate information to a parent or caregiver and will double-check that the installation and paperwork are correct. Safe Kids encourages all technicians and instructors to be proactive and supportive of each other in their efforts to maintain certification.

***NUMBER OF PEOPLE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSES WILL BE DICTATED BY THE PHASE THE STATE IS IN. EVERYONE WILL HAVE THEIR TEMPERATURE TAKEN EACH DAY AS THEY ENTER THE ROOM. PERSONAL MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED. HAND SANITIZER WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CLASSROOM.***

**Recertification information from SafeKids:**

**NEED MORE TIME:** If a CPST needs additional time for their recertification, you can follow-up with them and encourage them to enter their already completed requirements and then email us with their plan for completion (so we know how much time is requested).

**VIRTUAL SEAT SIGN OFFS:** We are still allowing virtual seat sign offs for technicians to assist with their recertification. If you would like an instructor to witness you installs the seats needed for recertification, please email. You must have the seats needed and a doll for harnesses available at your location.

Friends don’t let their friend’s certifications expire. Teamwork is the backbone of being a CPST and during these tumultuous times we need to be there to support each other in many different ways. As some of us know there has been a [policy addendum](https://default.salsalabs.org/T5fcba8fc-15c1-4b89-9d31-bd4f8eeedb07/4cac5c0e-fcc0-44d9-b62a-a90703c2eaff) in the way technicians can recertify; namely completing [Continuing Education Units (CEUs)](https://default.salsalabs.org/T86ff836f-9c36-4802-8361-8bf089d44f10/4cac5c0e-fcc0-44d9-b62a-a90703c2eaff) in place of their 5 required seat checks. Even if you have already completed a few seat checks you can replace the remaining with CEUs. An example would be if you completed 3 of your 5 required seat checks, you can now complete 2 additional CEUs (different from any previous CEUs completed) to fulfill the requirement.

**2021 Virtual CPS Conference**

The 2021 IL CPS Virtual Conference is less than 2 weeks away!  If you have not already registered, please register now.  Registrations are nearing capacity and we would like to make sure everyone that wants to attend is able to.  Please register[here](https://www.highmarksce.com/siumed/index.cfm?do=pln.viewActivity&plannerID=2387)!

*WHO*: Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and Instructors

*WHAT*: Illinois 2021 Virtual CPS Conference

*WHERE*: Anywhere!

*WHEN*: The mornings of **February 9-10, 2021**

*WHY*: To earn 6 CEUs needed for recertification and learn about the latest and greatest in Child Passenger Safety!

Additional Information:

* This conference will be **FREE**!
* We are working on applying for additional continuing education credits for different backgrounds as well.
* Further details will be e-mailed out in upcoming weeks.
* If you need to recertify before February and still need CEUs please visit the [National CPS Board](https://www.cpsboard.org/recertification/#1576785948199-060dbb8f-3418) for multiple options.

***Technician Skills Building Classes***:

(These classes are for current technicians who would like to earn all 6CEUs)

**Cook and Collar Counties:**

For the below classes, visit the web link below or contact Clare Pfotenhauer at clare.pfotenhauer@rushcopley.com.

[*https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544AFA628A0F58-technician2*](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544AFA628A0F58-technician2)

**February 11, 2021**

Aurora Fire Department

Station #8

3770 McCoy

Aurora

**February 12, 2021**

Aurora Fire Department

Station #8

3770 McCoy

Aurora

**March 19, 2021**

Gurnee Police Department

100 O’Plaine Road

Gurnee, IL

**May 6, 2021**

West Chicago Training Facility

320 Kress

West Chicago, IL

**June 4, 2021**

McHenry Police Department

333 South Green Street

McHenry, IL 60050

**July 8, 2021**

Frankfort Fire Department

Station 73

24420 South LaGrange Road

Frankfort, IL

**Chicago area:**

Please contact Wanda Vasquez at wanda.vazquez2@nm.org.

**Northwestern Illinois area:**

For the below classes, please contact Melanie Wingo at melaniewilacp@gmail.com.

***Upcoming CPS Technician Classes***:

**To register for any of these classes:** [**http://cert.safekids.org**](http://cert.safekids.org)**.**

*There is a $95 registration fee when you register for the class. This fee covers your national certification for two years. Feel free to email me to see if your agency is eligible for a mini grant to cover the registration fee*

**Child Passenger Safety Certification Course**

**March 10 - 12, 2021**

West Chicago Training Facility

320 Kress

West Chicago, IL

**March 22 – 24, 2021**

Village of Rosemont

9501 West Devon Avenue

Rosemont, IL

**April 14 – 16, 2021**

Deerfield Fire Department

500 Waukegan Road

Deerfield, IL

**May 19 – 21, 2021**

Evergreen Park Fire Department

9000 Kedzie Avenue

Evergreen Park, IL

**June 9 – 11, 2021**

Frankfort Fire Department

Station 73

24420 South LaGrange Road

Frankfort, IL

**August 4 – 6, 2021**

McHenry Police Department

333 South Green Street

McHenry, IL 60050

***Renewal Class:***

(These classes are for expired technicians who would like to renew their certification)

*There is a $95 registration fee when you register for the class. This fee covers your national certification for two years. Feel free to email me to see if your agency is eligible for a mini grant to cover the registration fee.*

**February 5, 2021**

Evergreen Park Fire Department

9000 South Kedzie

Evergreen Park

**June 7, 2021**

Gurnee Police Department

100 O’Plaine Road

Gurnee, IL

***Updated list of Events:***

**If you are planning an event, please email** **clare.pfotenhauer@rushcopley.com** **and it will be posted on the list. If you would like an Instructor or Tech Proxy for sign offs at your event, send an email request as soon as possible and a request will be established.**

***September 25, 2021 –Seat Check Saturday***

*Car seat events are very few and far between this year. SafeKids is allowing Instructors to conduct seat signoffs virtually. The Technician is responsible to have the seats needed and a doll/child for harnessing purposes. If you are interested, please email me for scheduling.*