



rear-facing • forward-facing • booster seat • safety belt

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 14, 2012

Contact: Tess Benham, Board Secretariat
tess.benham@nsc.org
(630) 775-2159

Amy Heinzen, Board Chairperson
amy.heinzen@allkids.org
(813) 436-5911

Alaskan Technician Named National Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year

The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to honor Mandi Seethaler of the Alaska Injury Prevention Center as the 2012 Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year. AIPC hosts the busiest fitting station in Alaska, and Seethaler has personally checked more than 300 child passenger safety seats in her two years as a certified technician.

“Child Passenger Safety is a major part of each day at the Alaska Injury Prevention Center. We offer a full-time fitting station for the public, and we’re the primary referral source for the local hospitals,” said Seethaler. “My colleagues at AIPC are all passionate about child passenger safety and provide a great example of community outreach.”

Child passenger safety is one of the nation’s most significant injury prevention initiatives, as motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury and death for young children. In 2009, there were 250 occupant fatalities among children younger than 4 years old. Of the 235 fatalities for which restraint was known, 31 percent were totally unrestrained.

Through her work at AIPC, Seethaler helps host the annual Alaska CPS Conference, where CPS technicians from all throughout the state travel hundreds of miles to attend. The conference presents an opportunity for Alaska CPS technicians to learn together and share stories of how technicians work through the challenges with small communities statewide to encourage families to safely secure their children.

Seethaler’s biggest piece advice for parents is to get their seat checked by a certified technician, “It’s easy, free and could save the life of your child.”

-MORE-

Tens of thousands of individuals have been certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and Technician Instructors since the standardized curriculum and certification program began in early 1998. CPS Technicians and Instructors put their knowledge to work teaching parents and caregivers to properly protect their children and to provide "hands-on" assistance in the proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration estimates that child restraints saved 309 lives in 2009 among children younger than 5, and an additional 63 lives of such children could have been saved if all had used child safety seats. Additionally, an estimated 9,310 lives have been saved by child restraints from 1975 through 2009.

The National Child Passenger Safety Board awarded Seethaler with the second annual Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year Award at the Lifesavers Conference in Orlando, Florida on June 13, 2012. Board President Amy Heinzen also awarded Seethaler with a check in the amount of five-hundred dollars on behalf of AAA National. Seethaler lives in Anchorage with her husband, Thad, and 16-year-old son, Kolin.

For more information about the CPS Instructor and Technician of the Year Awards and past award recipients, visit <http://www.cpsboard.org/awards.htm>.

List of Award Recipients

2012

CPS Instructor of the Year

Katrina Altenhofen
Washington County, IA

CPS Technician of the Year

Mandi Seethaler
Anchorage, AK

2011

CPS Instructor of the Year

Beth Washington
Tulsa, OK

CPS Technician of the Year

Giuseppina (Pina) Violano
New Haven, CT

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#) is a collaborative voice providing guidance for the safe transportation of children and ensuring the integrity of the child passenger safety training and certification program. The 22-member Board brings together medical, public health and injury prevention professionals, law enforcement, auto and car seat manufacturers, as well as representatives from some of our nation's most respected traffic safety organizations such as the Safe Kids, National Safety Council, AAP and AAA. It works collaboratively with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and with the Safe Kids Worldwide CPS Certification Program to provide insight from their respective organizations on the CPS technician training and certification program.

###