



Kids and Cars

Love Them, Protect Them





Hot Cars and Kids, a Deadly Combination

- Occurs every 10 days on average
 - More frequent in warmer months
- Several Factors
 - Demanding schedules of parents
 - Change in routine
 - Minor distractions
 - It can happen to anyone
- On average, 37 children die in cars each year from heat related deaths
 - This has increased since car seats were moved to back seat
 - However this does “NOT” mean that the front seat is safer
 - “DOES” mean that “out of sight, out of mind” has tragic results



Contributing Factors in Heat-related Death

- A child's body temperature rises faster than an adults
- A car can reach 125 degrees in the first 15-30 minutes
- Leaving windows opened does "NOT" slow the heating process or decrease the temperature



When Memory Fails

- **How can this happen? Especially with such precious cargo?**
 - Lack of sleep
 - High levels of stress
 - Emotional events
 - Change of routine
- **Competing interest of the brain**
 - When things run smoothly the average person can multitask fairly well
 - Addition of the above stressors inhibits immediate memory
- **Sadly when things get quiet the back seat looks unoccupied in the rearview mirror of the car**



Kids Playing in Cars

- 30% of Heat-related Vehicular Deaths involve children who are left unsupervised around vehicles
- They become trapped, unable to use the lock or door release to let them out
- Others have become trapped in the trucks of vehicles unable to get out



Prevention of Heat-related Vehicular Deaths

- Never leave a child unattended
- Keep your vehicle locked at all times
- Have a visual reminder up front in the car when your child is in it with you
- Make a habit of opening the back door to check the back seat occupied or not
- Put what you carry to work or out in the back seat so you will have to access the back of the car
- Have your daycare provider call you if your child has not been dropped off to make sure it is known
- If you see that a child has been left unattended around or in a car call the police or 911 immediately



For More Information

- Go to KidsAndCars.org to find out how to support manufactures' use of child warning systems

www.KidsAndCars.org

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Resources

- www.poolsafety.gov
- www.prevetinjuriesva.org - tip cards for injury prevention
- <http://nrckids.org> - National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care. 1-800-598-5437
- www.healthyfuturesva.com
- "Never Leave Your Child Alone: Don't Risk your Child's Life by leaving them in the car"; Intermountain Primary Children's Medical Center Foundation; www.primarychildren.org. "Spot the Tot": Safety In and Around Cars. Janet B. Brooks, Child Advocacy Manager - April 20, 2010.
- Brain Development. "Brain Facts: Understanding the latest Research".
<www.ncsmartstart.org/familyresources/braindevelopment.htm>