



LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK

Over the last two decades, 458 children have **DIED** in the US from being left unattended in **HOT CARS**.

DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

Leaving a Child **ALONE** in a car can quickly lead to **HEAT STROKE** and **DEATH**.

Heat Stroke in vehicles is the leading cause of **DEATH** among children and youth under the age of 18. Some Child Deaths are **PREVENTABLE**.

Quick Tip: Place your purse or important item that you will need in the back seat with your child as reminder that your child is in the back seat of the car.



Tips to Prevent Child Death Due to Heatstroke

- Never leave an infant or child unattended in a vehicle, even if the windows are partly open, or the engine is running and the air conditioning is on;
- Don't let children play in an unattended vehicle. Teach them a vehicle is not a play area;
- Make a habit of looking in the vehicle - front and back - before locking the door and walking away;
- Take steps to remember not to leave a child in a vehicle:
 - Write yourself a note and place it where you'll see it when you leave the vehicle.
 - Place your left shoe, cell phone, purse, briefcase, or something else you're sure to need in the back seat so you'll be sure to see a child left in the vehicle.
 - Keep an object in the car seat, such as a stuffed toy. Once the child is buckled in, place the object where the driver will notice it when he or she leaves the vehicle;
- Always lock vehicle doors and trunks and keep keys out of children's reach. If a child is missing, check the vehicle first, including the trunk.
- Ask your childcare center to call you if your child doesn't arrive on time for childcare.

If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately. If they are in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible.

LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Children, Summer Heat & Hot Cars

FACT SHEET

The following facts demonstrate the importance of protecting children from preventable deaths by being unattended in a vehicle.

- A vehicle heats up quickly, even with a window rolled down.
- A review of child heatstroke cases by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showed that heatstroke fatalities have occurred even in vehicles parked in shaded areas and when the air temperatures were 80 degrees F or less.
- Heatstroke can occur in temperatures as low as 57 degrees.
- On an 80 degree day, temperatures inside a vehicle can reach deadly levels in just 10 minutes.
- It can happen to anyone.
- Change to According to San Francisco State University's Department of GeoSciences, in 52 percent of cases the child was "forgotten" by the caregiver.
- In more than 29 percent of cases, a child got into the vehicle on their own.

You can help prevent unnecessary deaths.

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- Take steps to remember not to leave a child in a vehicle:
 - Write yourself a note and place it where you'll see it when you leave the vehicle.
 - Place your purse, briefcase, or something else you're sure to need in the back seat so you'll be sure to see a child left in the vehicle.
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 - Always lock vehicle doors and trunks and keep keys out of children's reach. If a child is missing, check the vehicle first, including the trunk.
 - Ask your childcare center to call you if your child doesn't arrive on time for childcare.
- If you see a child alone in a hot vehicle, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately. If they are in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible. Cool the child rapidly (not an ice bath but by spraying them with cool water or with a garden hose).

Visit www.lctf.org for more information on the "Look Before You Lock" campaign, because we should not lose one more child due to heatstroke or suffocation by being left in an unattended vehicle.

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KEY POINTS and STATISTICS

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says heatstroke in vehicles is the leading cause of all non-crash-related fatalities involving children 14 and younger, representing 61 percent of total non-crash fatalities in this age group.

- San Francisco State University's Department of Geosciences estimates that since 1998, there have been at least 677 heatstroke deaths of children left in cars, an average of 37 per year.
- In 2015, 24 children in the United States lost their lives after being left in unattended motor vehicles. 16 children have lost their lives in just the first six months of this year and an unknown number of others were moderately to severely injured.
- An examination of media reports about the 661 child vehicular heatstroke deaths for a 18-year period (1998 through 2015) shows the following circumstances:
 - 54% - child "forgotten" by caregiver (356 Children)
 - 29% - child playing in unattended vehicle (189)
 - 17% - child intentionally left in vehicle by adult (111)
 - 1% - circumstances unknown (5)
- States with higher incidences of fatalities for children 3 and younger include: Texas, Georgia, Indiana, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Virginia, according to San Francisco State University's Department of Geosciences.
- Children's bodies overheat easily, and infants and children under 3 years old are at greatest risk for heat-related illness.
- KidsandCars.org shows that 87 percent of children who died from vehicular heatstroke are age 3 and younger.
- A child's body absorbs more heat on a hot day than an adult's does.
- High body temperatures can cause permanent injury or even death.
- Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 degrees and the thermoregulatory system is overwhelmed. A core temperature of about 107 degrees is lethal.
- Symptoms of heatstroke: Warning signs vary, but may include;
 - red, hot, and moist or dry skin
 - no sweating
 - a strong rapid pulse or a slow weak pulse
 - or acting strangely
 - a throbbing headache
 - dizziness
 - nausea
 - confusion
 - being grouchy

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