

The Texas sun can quickly turn cars into a deadly oven. Unfortunately, each year children die from overheating in vehicles. From 1998-2010, 71 child vehicular hyperthermia deaths have occurred in the state.

The following are some tips from the Safe Kids Worldwide to be sure this preventable tragedy does not happen to you.

- For example: dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble;
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even for one minute. Leaving a window slightly open has no effect on the temperature in the vehicle;
- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, gym bag or whatever is to be carried from the car on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This forces the adult to open the back door and observe the child when they reach for their belongings;
- Set your cell phone or smart phone reminder to be sure you dropped your child off at daycare;
- Set your computer "Outlook" program to ask, "Did you drop off at daycare today?";
- Have a plan that if your child is late for daycare that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off children at daycare;
- Teach children not to play in any vehicle;
- Lock all vehicle doors and trunk - especially at home. Cars are not playgrounds;
- Check vehicles and trunks FIRST if a child goes missing.

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