

Safety In and Around Cars

Safe Kids Utah
Preventing Accidental Injury

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Safety In and Around Cars

- Never Leave Your Child Alone
- Spot the Tot
- Truck Entrapment
- Safety In and Around Cars



Never Leave Your Child Alone

- Even a few minutes, a child's life is a risk
- Between 1998-2009:
 - Nearly 421 died as a result of being left alone in a car
 - Due to hyperthermia

Never Leave Your Child Alone

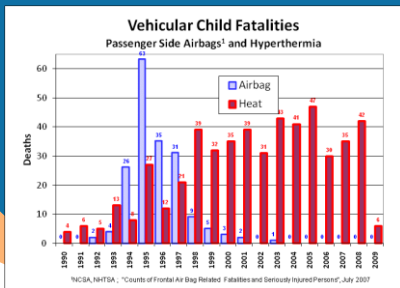
Airbags vs Hyperthermia deaths:

- From 1990-1992:
 - 11 known deaths from hyperthermia
- From 2004-2006:
 - 110 known fatalities from hyperthermia
- Almost all young children are now placed in back seats instead of front seats



Never Leave Your Child Alone

Airbags vs Hyperthermia deaths



Never Leave Your Child Alone

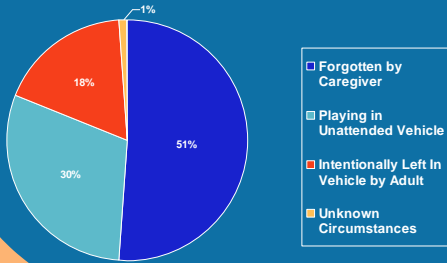
Why are we leaving them?

- 51% - child "forgotten" by caregiver
- 30% - child playing in unattended vehicle
- 18% - child intentionally left in vehicle by adult
- 1% - circumstances unknown

(Based on 361 media reports from 1998-2007)



Never Leave Your Child Alone

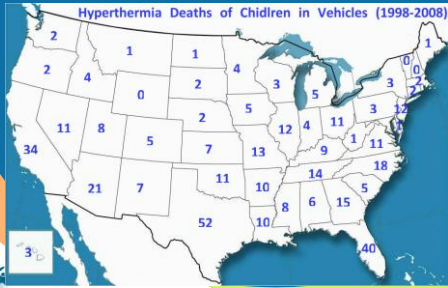


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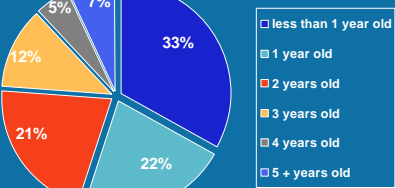
Never Leave Your Child Alone

Who's being left?



Never Leave Your Child Alone

Who's being left?



(Based on 361 media reports from 1998-2007)



Never Leave Your Child Alone

What's the problem?

- Heatstroke occurs when a person's temperature exceeds 104 degrees F
 - Symptoms include : dizziness, disorientation, agitation, confusion, sluggishness, seizure, hot dry skin that is flushed but not sweaty, loss of consciousness, rapid heart beat, hallucinations



Never Leave Your Child Alone

- A core body temperature of 107 degrees F is considered lethal as cells are damaged and internal organs shut down
- A child's body temperature increases 3-5 times as fast as an adults



Never Leave Your Child Alone



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Never Leave Your Child Alone



Never Leave Your Child Alone

More of the problem...

- Unattended children are at risk of being kidnapped
- Children being left alone in car can...
 - Push buttons
 - Disengage the brakes
 - Put the car in gear
 - Leave vehicle and walk away



Never Leave Your Child Alone

What can we do?

- Never leave your child unattended in a vehicle
- Make a habit of checking your whole vehicle before leaving it
- Set a reminder next to you as a cue your child is in the backseat
- Put your purse or briefcase in the backseat
- If you see a child alone in a car, call 911



Spot the Tot

- Vehicle rollovers in Utah (between 1997-2005):
 - 36 children under 10 were killed
 - 570 were injured
 - Most of the vehicles were trucks, vans, and SUVs
 - Most were driven by a relative of the victim
 - Of the deaths, 26 (72%) occurred from 2002-2005

Every 6 days = Utah child is run over in a parking lot



Spot the Tot

What are the risk factors?

- Children under the age of 5
- High profile vehicles
 - SUV's
 - Trucks
 - Vans
- Vehicles traveling in reverse
- Rushed and distracted drivers



Spot the Tot

What can we do?

- Walk all the way around your parked vehicle
 - Check for kids, pets or toys before entering, starting or moving the vehicle.
- Make sure young children are always accompanied by an adult when getting in and out of your vehicle.



Spot the Tot

What more can we do?

- Check street, driveway, or area
- Teach children not to play around vehicle
- Use backup cameras & sensor devices, if available
- Adjust driver's seat as high as needed to see clearly out of rear window
- Roll down windows to hear children
- Adjust mirrors to avoid blind spots



Trunk Entrapment

Tips:

- Store keys and remote devices away from children
- Check trunk for missing children. Every second counts.
- Show children the glow in the dark trunk release handle and how to use it.
- Teach children that trunks are for cargo- not for people or



Safety Around Cars

Tips:

- Select safe play areas for children-away from parked or moving vehicles.
- Know where the children are playing.
- Firmly hold hand of each child when walking near moving vehicles, and in driveways, parking lots or on sidewalks.



Safety In and Around Cars

Tips:

- Never leave your child alone in a vehicle
 - Not even for a minute
- Always lock doors and trunks
- Watch children closely around cars
 - Don't let children play around cars



Helpful Websites

- www.utahsafekids.org
- www.safekids.org
- www.nhtsa.org
- www.zerofatalities.com



Contact Information

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