



CITY OF STANFORD

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – Children & Hot Cars



07/21/2020

Facts about Hot Cars & Keeping Children and pets Safe:

- [Heat stroke](#) is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths in children under 15. Every year hundreds of pets die in hot parked cars.
- Heat stroke can happen when the body is not able to cool itself quickly enough.
- A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's does.
- When left in a hot car, a child's major organs begin to shut down when his temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit (F).
- A child can die when his temperature reaches 107 degrees F.
- Cars heat up quickly! In just 10 minutes, a car can heat up 20 degrees F.
- Cracking a window and/or air conditioning does little to keep it cool once the car is turned off.
- Heat stroke can happen when the outside temperature is as low as 57 degrees F.

Remember, it is NOT safe to leave a young child alone in a car for any length of time.

Take Action if You See a Child Alone in a Car:

Protecting children is everyone's business! If you see an unattended child in a car and are concerned, you should immediately call 911.

If the child is not responsive or is in pain, immediately:

- Call 911.
- Get the child out of the car.
- Spray the child with cool water

If the child is responsive:

- Stay with the child until help arrives.
- Have someone else search for the driver or ask the facility to page them.

Editor's note: The federal Hot Cars Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate in July 2019 to prevent heatstroke deaths in cars.

[Learn more here](#)

Things You Can Do to Prevent the Unthinkable:

Any parent or caregiver, even a very loving and attentive one, can forget a child is in the back seat. Being especially busy or distracted or having a change from the usual routine increases the risk.

Here are some safety reminders

- Always check the back seat and make sure all children are out of the car before locking it and walking away.
- Avoid distractions while driving, especially [cell phone use](#).
- Be extra alert when there is a change in your routine, like when [someone else is driving](#) your child or you take a different route to work or child care.
- Have your child care provider call if your child is more than 10 minutes late.
- Put your cell phone, bag, or purse in the back seat, so you check the back seat when you arrive at your destination.
- If someone else is driving your child, always check to make sure he has arrived safely.
- Keep your car locked when it is parked to prevent a curious child from entering when no one is around. Many hot car deaths have occurred when a child mistakenly locks himself inside.
- Make sure children do not have easy access to your car keys. Store them [out of a child's reach](#).
- Teach children that cars are not safe places to play.
- Keep rear fold-down seats closed to prevent a child from crawling into the trunk from inside the car.
- Remind children that cars, especially car trunks, should not be used for games like hide-and-seek.

Important Tip: If a child is missing, always [check the pool first](#), and then the car, including the trunk!

The message is clear: love them don't leave them!