



ALAMANCE COUNTY

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Safe Kids Alamance County Urges You to Help Protect Children from Heatstroke

Hot Cars Can Quickly Become Deadly for Children

BURLINGTON- Rising summer temperatures and children left alone in vehicles have contributed to 23 child deaths in the United States thus far due to heatstroke. There were a total of 24 child deaths in the U.S. due to heatstroke in 2015, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Safe Kids Alamance County reminds you to never leave children alone in cars, and if you see a child alone in a car, call 911 immediately.

Heatstroke, also known as hyperthermia, is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths for children. It occurs when the body is not able to cool itself quickly enough and the body temperature rises to dangerous levels. Young children are particularly at risk because their bodies heat up three to five times faster compared to their adult counterparts.

"A car can heat up 19 degrees in 10 minutes; and cracking a window doesn't help," said Kelley Kimrey, Safe Kids Alamance County Coordinator. "Heatstroke can happen anytime, anywhere to anybody, and we don't want to see this happen to any family. Safe Kids Alamance is asking everyone to help protect kids from this very preventable tragedy by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. Lock your car doors when it is unattended, even when at home, to prevent children from entering cars."

According to NHTSA, since 1998, more than 660 children across the United State have died from heatstroke. Twenty-nine percent of the deaths occurred when children played in an unattended vehicle and could not get out. This alone was the cause of three heatstroke-related child deaths in the U.S. this year.

Together, we can cut down the number of deaths and near misses by remembering to **ACT**.

- **A:** Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you're not in it so kids don't get in on their own.
- **C:** Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination. This is especially important if you're not following your normal routine.
- **T:** Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life.



**Committed to Protecting and Improving the
Public's Health in Alamance County**

The Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car program is made possible through a grant from General Motors. For more information on preventing child heatstroke deaths, please visit www.noheatstroke.org and www.safekids.org/heatstroke.

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