



## Kansas Group Says Shift Lock Prevents Accidents

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(WICHITA, Kan) - In a split second, an accident critically injures a toddler. It happened in the 1900 block of North Lorraine. Police say the truck was accidentally put into gear by a three year old. It rolled over another 2 year old boy.

"Kids like to look at new things, find places to hide and play," said Ronda Lusk, Safe Kids Coalition. "We always have to be vigilant as parents to look for things that might be dangerous in their environment."

Starting a car and putting it in gear is second nature to most of us. But do you know how easily a child could do it and potentially cause an accident?

Eyewitness News found out that in some cases, all it takes is the key in the ignition in the accessory position to knock a car into gear.

This may have to do with a certain security feature called a Brake Transmission Safety Interlock. It requires a foot on the brake to shift the vehicle.

A Kansas organization called Kids and Cars helped pass a law in 2008 that requires new cars to have this feature. Until all cars have it, it's up to parents to take away the opportunity for this kind of accident to happen.

Kids and Cars recommends parents test their vehicles. Here's how:

**Check your vehicle to see if it can be shifted into gear without your foot on the brake. You want to make sure your vehicle has the "brake transmission shift interlock" (BTSI) feature that works in all key positions.**

- **1. Get into your car**
- **2. Put emergency brake on**
- **3. Make sure vehicle is on a flat surface**
- **4. Make sure no object or person is in front of or behind your vehicle**
- **5. Put keys in ignition in off position; turn key one click forward (not to the position where the radio, lights and power windows work)**

**Attempt to shift vehicle into gear without putting your foot on the brake -**

- **1. if vehicle shifts into gear, then BTSI does not work in that key position and you should be aware that your vehicle can roll if it is inadvertently shifted into gear.**
- **2. Try this test in all key positions. If vehicle shifts into gear without having the brake peddle depressed, then BEWARE - your vehicle does not have BTSI in all key positions and could roll away.**
- **3. Most vehicles have BTSI in some positions; but not all. The most common position is the half click forward. (somewhere between 'off' and accessory) You would not use this key position during normal operation, but young children find it easily.**

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