



Every year, thousands of children are hurt or die because a driver moving forward very slowly didn't see them. These incidents for the most part take place in residential driveways or parking lots and are referred to as 'frontovers.' (the opposite of a backover)

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration January 2009 report (DOT HS 811 085) states that 'other' (not a backover) non-occupant nontraffic crashes are responsible for 393 deaths and 20,000 injuries per year.
- The predominant age of victims are one year olds. (12-23 months)
- Over 80% of "frontover" incidents involved a larger size vehicle. (truck, van, SUV)
- Tragically, in over 70% of these incidents, a parent or close relative is behind the wheel.

KidsAndCars.org urges all adults to heighten their awareness before they engage a vehicle into gear to move forward slowly; especially when children are present. Young children are impulsive and unpredictable; still have very poor judgment, and little understanding of danger. In addition, young children do not recognize boundaries such as property lines, sidewalks, driveways or parking spaces. Toddlers have established independent mobility between the ages of 12-23 months, but the concept of personal safety is absent. Frontovers are often the predictable consequence of a child following a parent into the driveway without their knowledge.

Frontovers can happen in any vehicle because all vehicles have a blind zone; the area in front of a vehicle where you can't see from the driver's seat. The danger tends to increase with larger vehicles. In general the blindzone in front of vehicles ranges from 6-8 feet.

It's always best to look carefully all the way around your vehicle before you get in and again before you put the car in gear. Remember to move forward slowly, and pay attention to children who may be running into the path of your vehicle.

KidsAndCars.org recommendations to keep children safe include:

- Walk completely around and behind a vehicle prior to moving it.
- Know where your kids are. Make children move away from your vehicle to a place where they are in full view before moving the car and know that another adult is properly supervising children before moving your vehicle.
- Teach children that “parked” vehicles might move. Let them know that they can see the vehicle; but the driver might not be able to see them.
- Consider installing cross view mirrors, audible collision detectors, rear view video camera and/or some type of front sensor detection device.
- Measure the size of your blind zone (area) in front of the vehicle(s) you drive. Many drivers cannot see a young child 6-8 feet in front of larger vehicles.
- Be aware that steep inclines and large SUV’s, vans and trucks add to the difficulty of seeing around a vehicle.
- Hold children’s hand when leaving the vehicle.
- Teach your children to never play in or around a vehicle.
- Keep toys and other sports equipment off the driveway.
- Homeowners should trim landscaping around the driveway to ensure they can see the sidewalk, street and pedestrians clearly when backing out or entering their driveway. Pedestrians also need to be able to see a vehicle pulling out of the driveway.
- Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway and always set your parking brake.
- Keys and/or remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- Make sure all child passengers have left the car after it is parked.
- Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays.

These precautions can save lives.

For additional information, visit www.KidsAndCars.org