

Back-over accidents not uncommon nationally

By Michelle Casady mcasady@express-news.net Updated 11:20 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2012

The accident that left a 3-year-old boy dead after his grandfather unwittingly backed over him is similar to ones that happen across the nation every week.

According to information available through the website KidsAndCars.org, at least two children are killed and 48 are injured weekly in back-over accidents, and 70 percent of the time a relative is behind the wheel.

[Jay Villareal](#), 3, was killed Tuesday on the North Side when his grandfather backed over him in an [SUV](#). He was taken to the hospital where he died half an hour later. Police are considering it an accident and said it's unlikely charges will be filed.

The family of the boy declined to be interviewed.

A search of Express-News archives indicated this is at least the second fatal back-over incident in San Antonio since October, when a man accidentally ran over and killed his 1-year-old nephew.

Similar accidents occurred in San Antonio in November 2007 when a father backing out of a driveway hit his 20-month-old son and in May 2008 when a mother did the same, killing her 2-year-old son.

These examples are also in line with statistics compiled by KidsAndCars.org, that the average age of victims in these accidents is between one year and 23 months.

The organization offers some safety tips to avoid backing over children:

- Walk around and behind the vehicle prior to moving it.
- Know where your children are and keep them in full view while moving the vehicle.
- Teach children that parked [vehicles](#) can move and that the driver may not be able to see them.
- Consider installing rear-view [cameras](#) and/or some type of back-up detection device.
- Measure the size of blind spots behind any vehicle you drive. Example: A 5-foot-1 driver can have a blind spot about 8 feet wide by 50 feet long.

For more information, visit kidsandcars.org.

News researcher [Michael Knoop](#) contributed to this story.

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/Back-over-accidents-not-uncommon-nationally-3897568.php#ixzz27hsFhOyf