

FRONT PAGE

Heat Awareness Day in time of Memorial Day Weekend

By: Sophia Beausoleil, KXAN Published: May 24, 2013, 1:21 pm CDT



With the holiday weekend kicking off, summer activities, many are reminded to beware of the deadly heat. Friday is Heat Awareness Day. The National Weather Service said heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the U.S.

"Take extra precaution on those mornings you have a change in routine such as someone different taking the child to take care or sleeping late like we did, it happens to very very good loving parents," said Kristie Reeves-Cavaliero. She is the founder of [Ray Ray's Pledge](#).

Her one-year-old daughter, Sophia, whose nick name is "Ray Ray," died on May 25, 2011 from a [heat stroke](#). Cavaliero's husband accidentally left baby Sophia in the back of his truck while he was at work.

"One wrong turn and we tried to figure out why, what made him take that wrong turn that day, and we still don't know," explained Cavaliero.

She said she and her husband, Brett, woke up late that morning. Reeves-Cavaliero said it was chaotic. It wasn't until the couple met for lunch later in the day that they realized something was wrong.

"I knew in my heart that that my husband made an honest mistake because this child was his world and he was a very loving and responsible he continues to be loving and responsible father," said Reeves-Cavaliero. It was 94 degrees that day and Ray Ray was in there for 3 hours. Now this mother has made it her life mission to have Ray-Ray's Pledge and educate other parents on child safety and heat stroke awareness and prevention.

The pledge is to call ones daycare provider if a student is going to be late or absent. Also, to ask a Daycare provider to pledge to call parents if a child doesn't show up on time.

About 1 in 5 kids die of a heatstroke from being in the car. Many of the times it happens right before daycare in the morning.

So Far in 2013 there have been 4 deaths from kids being left in cars.

Prevention Tips from Safecar.gov

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle.
- Do not let your children play in an unattended vehicle. Teach them that a vehicle is not a play area.
- Never leave infants or children in a parked vehicle, even if the windows are partially open.
- Keep a large teddy bear or other stuffed animal in the car seat when it's empty. Move the teddy bear to the front seat when you place the child in the seat as a visual reminder.
- Make a habit of looking in the vehicle - front and back - before locking the door and walking away.
- If you are dropping your child off at childcare, and normally it's your spouse or partner who drops them off, have your spouse or partner call you to make sure the drop went according to plan.

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