

Rear-View Cameras On Cars: They Can Save Lives Of Children

By Michelle Frizalone, KTXS News POSTED: 5:10 pm CDT May 3, 2012 UPDATED: 7:35 am CDT May 4, 2012

ABILENE, Texas -- A staggering number of children are killed each year by people backing up in their cars. A tragic accident over the weekend left a 2-year-old boy dead after his father accidentally ran him over on the 300 block of El Paso Street in Merkel.

Auto safety regulators want to prevent children from getting hit by a car.

Arrow Ford Sales Manager Shanna Kevil told KTXS News that Arrow has seen more requests from parents looking for the rear-view camera technology.

A total of 448 children have died from 2006 to 2010 by drivers backing up, according to KidsAndCars. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration wants all auto makers to put rear-view cameras in all cars by 2014.

"The rear-view cameras are a really good idea. We sell a lot of vehicles, and it seems like more and more people are coming in and requesting that," Kevil said.

Rear-view cameras, however, won't prevent all child deaths.

"You still have to be aware. It's not a cure all," Kevil said.

What about the cost of a new car if these rear-view cameras are put in all new vehicles?

"Anytime we add new technology to a vehicle, of course, it increases the cost of the vehicle," Kevil said. "It will add some cost. I think once they start mass producing them, if it is something they pass by 2014, then of course the cost of that will go down."

If drivers are looking to add a rear-view camera in their car, it will cost around \$550. For a cheaper option, people can buy a wireless camera for \$100 to \$150.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration did go before Congress in February to try and get the rule passed, but the transportation secretary said more research needed to be done.

http://www.ktxs.com/big_country_news/31002518/detail.html