

Look before you lock: A message every parent needs to hear as summer approaches

7 children died in US in hot cars in May

Posted: 6:54 AM June 3, 2013 By: [Sarah Hollenbeck](#)



KANSAS CITY, Mo. - In May, seven children died across the country after being left inside locked cars, according to a local organization. Kids and Cars is leading a national push for parents to "look before you lock" in an effort to prevent parents from accidentally locking their young children inside their car.

It doesn't take long for the inside of your car to heat up to a dangerous temperature, according to Amber Rollins with the organization Kids and Cars. When the sun shines, your car acts as a greenhouse and traps in heat. It only takes a few minutes for your car to reach temperatures that could be fatal to a child.

Rollins says a child's body temperature rises 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's.

She also says leaving a child in a car is a mistake that can happen all too easily for parents in a rush.

"The worst thing any parent can do is to think this can't happen to them or they're not capable of forgetting their child", Rollins said. "But the fact is it can happen to anybody. It happens to loving caring parents: a veterinarian. College professor, pastor, teacher, it really can happen to anybody."

There are extra steps parents can take to ensure it never happens to them. Rollins suggests putting a stuffed animal in your child's car seat when the child is not there to get into the habit.

Then when you put your baby in their car seat, move the stuffed animal to the front seat as a visual reminder that your baby is in the back seat.

Here's a look at the seven children who died last month in hot cars, according to the Kids and Cars Organization.

- A girl, 5 months old, died May 10 in El Paso, Texas, after her mother, a high school teacher, unknowingly left her behind in her SUV.
- A boy, 4 years old, died May 15 in Transylvania County, N.C., after his grandmother forgot to drop him off at daycare.
- A boy, 11 months old, died May 16 in Miami, Fla., after being left behind in his mother's car.
- A girl, 1 years old, died May 17 in Dallas, Texas, after her mother, an elementary school teacher, unknowingly left her behind in her vehicle.
- A boy, 1 year old, died May 24 in Corpus Christi, Texas, after his uncle forgot to drop him off at daycare.
- A boy, 18 months old, and girl, 2 months old, died May 26 in Glen Allen, Va., when they were left in the car while the mother was at work.

All of the children were left by a family member, and all but one child were under age 2.

Since the group began tracking data, more than 675 children have died in similar situations.

Copyright 2013 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

http://www.kshb.com/dpp/weather/weather_news/look-before-you-lock-a-message-every-parent-needs-to-hear-this-spring#ixzz2VMz4WiAV