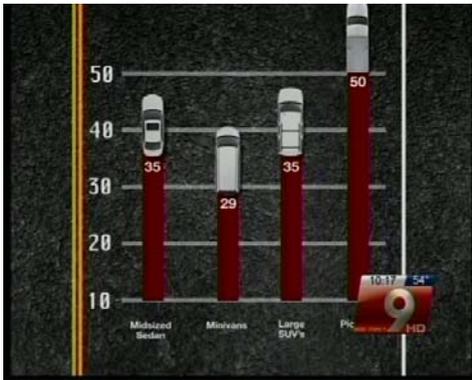


Backing up blind: what you don't see in the mirrors

CREATED Feb. 8, 2012 Reporter: [Kimberly Romo](#) Web Producer: [Chuck Meyer](#)



TUCSON (KGUN9-TV) - There is a safety hazard involving children that is a lot bigger problem than you may think, but is totally preventable. On January 25, 2007, 4-year-old Adelita Camacho-Bedoy was at her babysitter's house when an ordinary afternoon turned tragic. The sitter went to run an errand when the unthinkable happened. Adelita ran behind the vehicle. The sitter had no idea.

Adelita's grandmother, Rosa Camacho-Bedoy, says, "She didn't realize she had hit her until she saw her lying in front of the car." Rosa arrived at UMC only to learn that little Adelita had passed away. Five years after the accident, Rosa describes what she misses most, "She had that little squeak...that squeaky little girl I think more

than anything is the sound of her voice that I miss more than anything else."

4-year-old Adelita Camacho-Bedoy was killed when a babysitter backed over her with an SUV.

Just last week near Phoenix, a pick-up truck backed over an 18-month-old little boy and killed him. His grandfather was behind the wheel. In May of last year, a 2-year-old girl died the same way. A tragic mistake made by her father. Just the day before in Tucson, 4-year-old Justin Oaks died when his mother backed over him.



The sad truth is that dozens more families in the US experience this same kind of heartbreak every year. In 2011, 76 children died in back-up accidents according to KidsAndCars.org, a public safety awareness website for child safety around vehicles. The problem is the blind zone that every vehicle has. The bigger the vehicle, the bigger the blind zone.

All 120 kindergarten students who stood behind this SUV are still in the blind zone!

We asked the Rural/Metro Fire Department and Tiffany Griebel, a mom of three, to help us demonstrate just how large these zones can be. Captain Grant Cesarek first established the size of the blind zone for her 2008 Dodge Durango. Her side and rear-view mirrors show the coast is clear. The blind zone measured at 30-feet. Griebel put on a blindfold, and then, we brought in the kids. Once they were in place, we checked again-- what exactly could she see? Griebel said she could see nothing. There were 120 children...7 kindergarten classes...in her blind zone.



Part of the problem is a car seat in the middle of the back seat that sits up higher than the vehicle seat, and makes that zone bigger by an estimated 20-feet. Some vehicles have an even bigger blind zone than this. For minivans, it can be as much as 28-feet, mid-sized sedans, 35-feet, large SUV's, 38-feet, and some pick-up trucks that have a blind zone that stretches a whopping 50-feet.

There are after-market products that can help you see what's behind you. Small cameras can be mounted near the license plate for about \$500. A monitor allows you to see what your mirrors don't. There's also back-up sensors that beep if something is in the way. Price tag: about \$300.

Currently, an estimated 40% of all new vehicles have rear-view cameras as standard equipment. At the end of this month, new legislation will go into effect that will require all new vehicles to have a rear-view camera as standard equipment within the next couple of years.

<http://www.kgun9.com/news/local/138943134.html>