

Forgetting a child in a hot back seat can prove deadly

Sizzling temperatures are cause for concern

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MANTECA, Calif. (KCRA) - Temperatures are rising, and experts warn of the dangers involved in leaving infants and toddlers trapped in sizzling automobiles.



[Father warns of leaving children in car](#)

A father wants others to learn from his experience.

It doesn't take a 100-degree day to make it dangerous for children inside the car. If a child is warmly dressed, he or she can still die of hyperthermia at 50°F. At 75°F, it only takes 15 minutes for a child to die of heat in a car.

Experts warn that rolling the windows down doesn't prevent car seats, upholstery and other interior items from heating up -- making the warm air inside the car deadly to children, disabled adults and pets.

It happened to Justin Marson.

His daughter, SaraCorinne, was left inside a car for three hours.

"My wife and I had a horrible miscommunication," Marson said Wednesday.

The nine-month-old girl was napping in her car seat in August 2008 when the couple pulled into their home.

"We both thought the other transferred her from the car seat to her crib. When we realized the mistake, she was clinging to life," Marson said.

SaraCorinne was airlifted to an Oakland hospital, suffering from organ failure and a high fever.

Doctors told the Marsons the girl would live three days.

Four years later, SaraCorinne has recovered from organ failure, but still suffers from brain damage.

At least one baby or toddler dies in a hot car each week from April to October.

Eight have died in the United States in the past seven days. The latest was Tuesday when a toddler was left inside a car in Tennessee.

A study by San Francisco State University found within 10 minutes, the temperature inside the car will increase 19 degrees. After 20 minutes, it jumps another 29 degrees.

Parking in the shade or rolling down windows will not keep the car cool enough to keep your child safe.

Signs of heat stress and heat sickness are different in small children from the signs one might detect in older children or adults.

Sleepiness and crankiness are most commonly observed -- and people often shrug those off as common behaviors.

Because many babies fall asleep in moving cars and are often cranky when awakened, parents miss the signs of dehydration or heat sickness.

It's tragedy that can be avoided.

"It's hard to talk about, but I don't want other parents to go through what we have," Marson said.

Marson now works with a non-profit organization called Kids and Cars. They work to raise awareness of children safety around vehicles.

The organization knows new parents suffer from exhaustion due to the lack of sleep, hormone changes in their normal routine. Any one of these changes can cause a parent to be forgetful when they least expect it.

The organization states even the best parents can overlook a sleeping baby in a car; and the end result can be injury or even death.

Kids and Cars offer these tips to parents.

-put something in the back seat of a car that requires you to open the back door everytime you park - cellphone, employee badge, handbag, etc.

-Keep a stuffed animal in your child's car seat. Place the stuffed animal in the front seat when your baby is in the car seat.

-Ask you baby sitter or childcare provider to call if you child has not arrived on time.

-Avoid cell phone calls and texting while driving.

-Make it a routine to open the back door of the car every time you park to check that no one has been left behind.

<http://www.kcra.com/news/Forgetting-a-child-in-a-hot-back-seat-can-prove-deadly/-/11797728/16022770/-/ccuolf/-/index.html#ixzz235eeLWmQ>