



People
Sierra

Safety Tips n.76 July, 2013

Never Leave Children in Cars – a major risk of death through hyperthermia

Why is it so risky?

- Car temperatures can rise 10 to 15 °C every 15 minutes. Opening windows does not significantly slow down the rate down;
- A child's body temperature rises 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's due to lower water reserves;
- Hyperthermia can occur in minutes, and fatalities within 2 hours;
- Hyperthermia can occur on days as cool as just 22 °C, when the inside of a car can quickly reach 47 °C.



How could a parent forget?

Sometimes parents intentionally leave a child in a car, underestimating the risk. Often, however, a busy parent forgets that the child is still in the car, especially on the way to or from work and day care. These incidents can happen to any parent or caregiver.

Prevention Tips

- Dial the emergency number immediately if you see a child alone in a car;
- Place your personal items (purse, computer) in the backseat. That way you are more likely to see that the child is still with you when you exit the car;
- Place the child's personal items (diaper bag, bottle) in the front seat as a reminder to you;
- Whenever there is a change in drop off and pick up arrangements, confirm the plan worked out with your partner;
- Arrange that your day care provider will call you if the child is not dropped off when expected;
- Install a child car seat safety device - senses when a child is seated in a car infant or booster seat after the driver has left the vehicle.

Source:
<http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/publications/info/factsheets/children-in-cars.pdf>