

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE "Look Before You Lock"

HONOR ◆ COURAGE ◆ INTEGRITY



With Summer fast approaching, and temperatures heating up, the Harlingen Police Department along with the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic safety Administration wants to warn parents and caregivers of young children to be mindful that it doesn't take long for a child to die of heatstroke if left unattended in a parked vehicle. The average number of U.S. child heatstroke fatalities per year since 1998 is 38. When outside temperatures are in the low 80's, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach deadly levels in only 10 minutes, even with the window rolled down a couple of inches. Children's bodies overheat easily, and infants and children under four years old are at the greatest risk for heat-related illness.

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle
- Check the vehicle (front and back) before locking and walking away
- Teach children that vehicles are not play areas
- Store vehicle keys out of a child's reach

The Harlingen Police Department encourages community members who see a child alone in a hot vehicle to immediately call 911 or the local Emergency number. A child in distress due to heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.

Chief of Police
Jeffrey Adickes

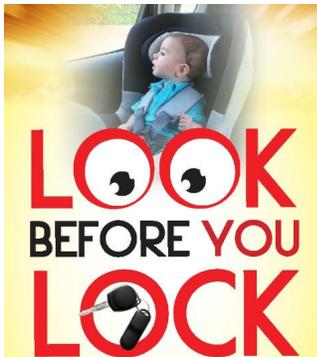
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