



Never Leave Your Child Alone in the Car!

Fact Sheet

Department of Geosciences

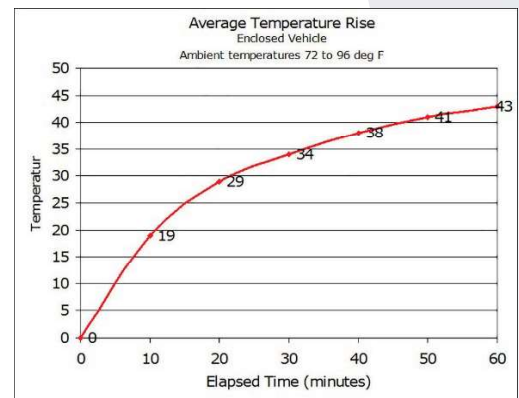
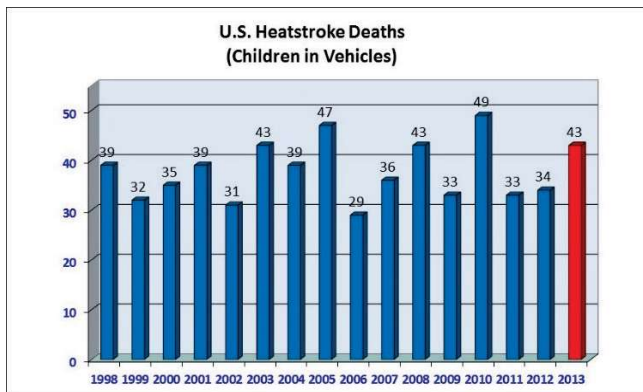


SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Never leave a child in an unattended car, even with the windows down.
- Be sure that all occupants leave the vehicle when unloading. Don't overlook sleeping babies.
- Always lock your car. If a child is missing, check the car first, including the trunk. Teach your children that vehicles are never to be used as a play area.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the car seat and when the child is put in the seat place the animal in the front with the driver.
- Place your purse or briefcase in the back seat as a reminder that you have your child in the car.
- Make "look before you leave" a routine whenever you get out of the car.
- Have a plan that your childcare provider will call you if your child does not show up for school.

HYPERTHERMIA DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN VEHICLES

- Total number of hyperthermia deaths of children left in cars, 1998-2010: 494+
- Average annual number of hyperthermia deaths of children in cars, 1998-2010: 38
- Heatstroke occurs when the body core temperature reaches 104 degrees F.
- A Child's body warms 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's.



Average Elapsed Time and Inside Vehicle Temperature Rise compared to Ambient Temperature

- 10 minutes = 19 degree increase
- 20 minutes = 29 degree increase
- 30 minutes = 34 degree increase
- 1 hour = 43 degree increase

Contact Information:

Jan Null, CCM

Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University