



Safety Bulletin

AMTA Alberta Motor Transport Association

Hot Vehicles – Be aware of child and pet safety

On a 27-degree day, a vehicle warms up to dangerously hot levels in as little as 10 minutes. A child's body temperature climbs three to five times faster than an adult. As heat seeps in, small bodies aren't as capable of cooling down, experts say.

According to a report from NHTSA, from 1998 to 2016, 700 children have died from heatstroke. 376 of those deaths were children "**Forgotten**" by the caregiver.

FACTS:

- The temperature inside a car can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and 40 degrees in an hour
- 80% of the increase in temperature happens in the first 10 minutes
- Cracking the windows does not help slow the heating process OR decrease the maximum temperature
- Children have died from heatstroke in cars in temps as low as 60 degrees

PREVENTION:

- Never leave children or pets alone in or around cars; not even for a minute
- "**Look Before You Lock**" - Get in the habit of always opening the back door to check the back seat before leaving your vehicle. Make sure no child or pet has been left behind.
- Keep all keys out of the reach of your child.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times, even in driveways or garages. Ask home visitors, child care providers and neighbors to do the same.
- Use drive-thru services when available (restaurants, banks, pharmacies, dry cleaners, etc.) and pay for gas at the pump.

Do not leave children or pets in a hot vehicle!

