

**Joint News Release
from
Grant County Health District
and
Grant County Emergency Management
July 8, 2010**

Primary contact: Theresa Fuller, Public Information Officer
Grant County Health District
509-766-7960 x24, tfuller@granthealth.org

Secondary contact: Kyle Foreman, Public Information Officer
Grant County Emergency Management
509-760-3713, kforeman@co.grant.wa.us

Safety Reminder: Kids, Cars and Hot Days

MOSES LAKE -- The Grant County Health District and Grant County Emergency Management remind citizens that hot temperatures bring risks for children in vehicles.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can occur in a matter of minutes for young children and infants in enclosed vehicles. A recent General Motors and Safe Kids Worldwide study found that children are more vulnerable to heat because a child's body temperature increases three to five times faster than that of an adult. "This is a serious issue and one that is entirely preventable," states Jeff Ketchel, Grant County Health District Administrator.

On an 85-degree day, the inside of a car can reach 100 degrees in seven minutes; on a 93-degree day, the inside of a car can exceed 125 degrees in about 20 minutes. Compared to outside temperatures, the temperature inside of a car is hotter and climbs rapidly. There is no evidence that cracking the windows helps prevent the temperature in vehicle interiors from reaching dangerous levels. In fact, sunlight coming through car windows makes the car work like an oven.

According to Safe Kids Worldwide an average of 37 children die each year in the United States, as the result of being left in a car on a warm day. In fact 20 children have already died in 2010. Don't let this avoidable tragedy affect your family!

Safe Kids Grant County urges all adults to take the following steps:

- Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window slightly open.
- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or whatever is to be carried from the car on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This triggers adults to see children when they open the rear door and reach for their belongings.
- Set your cell phone or Blackberry reminder to be sure you dropped your child off at day care.
- Set your computer calendar program, such as Outlook, to ask, "Did you drop off at daycare today?"
- Have a plan that if your child is late for daycare that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off little kids at day care.
- Teach children not to play in any vehicle.
- Lock all vehicle doors and trunk after everyone has exited the vehicle – especially at home. Keep keys out of children's reach. Cars are not playgrounds or babysitters.
- Check vehicles and trunks FIRST if a child goes missing.

For more information and to see a demonstration of how quickly a car heats up in moderate temperatures, please visit: <http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/never-leave-your-child-alone/>

###

Approved 7/7/2010 by Jeff Ketchel

via remote access

Kyle Foreman | Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer

Grant County Emergency Management

1525 E Wheeler Rd.

Moses Lake WA 98837

☎ 509-762-1462 [Office]

☎ 509-760-3713 [Mobile 24/7]

✉ kforeman@co.grant.wa.us