



# Klamath County Fire District No. 1

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### HOT WEATHER AND VEHICLES

With our summer daytime temperatures reaching into the nineties, please remember that children are at a serious risk for heat stroke when they are left alone even for a few minutes in a closed vehicle. Last year, at least 42 children across the United States died from heat stroke caused by being left or trapped in a vehicle during hot weather according to Safe Kids, USA.

A small child's core body temperature may increase up to five times faster than that of an adult. Heat stroke occurs when the core body temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit. A core body temperature of 107 degrees Fahrenheit is considered lethal.

According to research conducted by San Francisco State University, the temperature inside of a car can reach a dangerous temperature even in just minutes.

The research also revealed that more than half of the children that die from heat stroke are accidentally left behind in a closed car. One-third of the children are trapped while playing in an unattended vehicle. Sadly, one in five of the children who died were intentionally left in the car by an adult.

Safe Kids suggests these child safety tips for parents and caregivers:

- Teach children not to play in, on or around parked vehicles.
- **NEVER** leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the windows slightly open.
- **ALWAYS** lock a vehicle's doors and trunk – especially at home. Keep car keys and remote entry devices out of children's reach.
- Place something that you will need at your next stop – such as a purse, a lunch, gym bag or briefcase – on the floor of the backseat where the child is sitting. This simple act could help prevent you from accidentally forgetting the child.