



SEMPER SAFE

Pets and Young Children in Cars



As temperatures rise, sadly so do deaths to children and pets left inside vehicles. From 2003 to 2013, over 400 children and thousands of pets died from heatstroke after being left in cars. Most of these are accidental from people who say “I was just going to be a few minutes”, or “I cracked the window”.

PLEASE help keep all of our children and pets safe. Don't let distractions, confusion, hurriedness, or anything else come in the way of ensuring children and pets are not left in danger at any time.

Children and animals are less able to handle this extreme heat than adults and are more susceptible to hyperthermia (heatstroke).

Hyperthermia, a medical emergency when the body produces or absorbs more heat than it can dissipate; which can lead to brain damage, kidney failure, and death.

More than half of all child hyperthermia fatalities in the United States from 1998 to 2009 were children under two years old.

Elapsed time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **NEVER LEAVE A CHILD UNATTENDED IN A VEHICLE. NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE!**
- Be sure that all occupants leave the vehicle when unloading. Don't overlook sleeping babies.
- Always lock your car and ensure children do not have access to keys or remote entry devices.
- **IF A CHILD IS MISSING, ALWAYS CHECK THE POOL FIRST, AND THEN THE CAR, 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, or 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 or daycare.

If you ever see a child or pet in a hot car alone, immediately take action and call 911 for help. You could save the life of a child or pet.

As Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines we live by our ethos. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or family members, and remember SEMPER SAFE!