



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake Reminds Public of Dangers Hot Vehicles Pose to Children

With temperatures predicted to rise above 90 degrees this week, Wake County Human Services staff wants to remind the public of the dangers of leaving children inside a car in this heat. During a demonstration today, they showed just how hot it can get inside a closed vehicle by roasting s'mores in the backseat where young children typically sit.

"On average, one child dies from heatstroke every 10 days in the United States," said Suzanne LeDoyen, a Wake County public health educator. "In 2015 alone, 24 children nationwide died from heatstroke or suspected heatstroke while left in cars. This is why we urge Wake County residents to remember to ACT to help keep children safe."

The acronym "ACT" is a part of the [Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car](#) campaign, which was launched by Safe Kids Worldwide and the General Motors Foundation. The campaign reminds residents to:

- **A:** Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. Always lock your doors and trunks – even in your driveway. Keep your keys and key fobs out of the reach of kids.
- **C:** Create reminders. Place something you'll need at your next stop - like a briefcase or cell phone - next to the child safety seat. It may seem simple, but it can be a helpful reminder on a chaotic day.
- **T:** Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911.

Since 2000, Wake County Human Services and [Safe Kids Wake County](#) have partnered to remind residents of the dangers hot vehicles pose to children. This year, the organizations honored children who lost their lives with a pop-up memorial garden.

Attendees signed pledges, stating they will never leave a child alone in a car. They also promised to call 911 immediately if they see a child in a vehicle.

For more information on preventing heatstroke, please visit safekids.org.

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