

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SECTION | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County EMS Working to Prevent Child Heatstroke Injuries and Death

As temperatures rise, Beaufort County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is working to ensure that no child is left alone in a car, not even for a minute, by participating in an education and awareness program to help prevent injuries or death to children by hyperthermia, or heatstroke. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, an organization dedicated to preventing injuries in children, heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related child deaths. Since 1998, more than 635 children across the nation have died from heatstroke while unattended in cars.

Even on cool days, tragedy can occur if children are left unattended in a vehicle. On an 80-degree day, the temperature inside of a car can rise 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and keep getting hotter with each passing minute. Throughout the next few weeks, County EMS staff will be providing brochures on this matter to child care centers, doctor's offices and hospitals. EMS is asking the community to help this effort by remembering to **ACT**:

- **A:** **Avoid** heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving a child alone in a car and keeping your car locked when you are not in it, so children do not get in on their own.
- **C:** **Create** reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to the child such as a briefcase, purse, or cell phone that is needed at your final destination.
- **T:** **Take action.** If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life.

Additional prevention information can be found by clicking the image below, or visiting www.safekids.org/heatstroke or www.gowiththeflow.com/heat.

