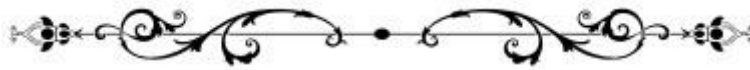


Backover Safety Alert



Kids getting backed over by cars is an all too common cause of injuries and death for younger children. In fact, about 1 child a week dies in the United States when they are accidentally backed over by the family car or SUV, often in their own driveway. Parents, caregivers and drivers can all do their part to make sure that children do not share space with vehicles. A five-second walk around the car before you get in could save a child's life.

Just recently, June 20, 2011 in Roseville CA, a father ran over his 11-month-old son in the driveway. At some point the child came out of the front door and the father was unable to see the child and accidentally backed over the child.

In April of 2010, twice in one week, a child was run over and killed in the same neighborhood in Washington state. It can happen to anyone, anywhere, and as proven here, more often than you would expect.

Young children are very curious and love to explore. They often times will sneak out of the house following a parent or older sibling. With school closed for summer, little ones

enjoy being around their big brothers and sisters and want to do everything they do, and more than likely will follow them around all day to be apart of the admired fun.

Key Facts



- In most cases it is the parent or family member behind the wheel.
- The children killed seem to fall into the 10-month to 6 years old age group.
- SUV's and pickup trucks are involved in more backovers than cars.
- Most backover incidents occur in spaces such as driveways and parking lots of apartments.



Top Tips

- **Test your vehicle's blind spots:** Does the top of your child's head even reach above the bottom of the rear window? If not, then it should be obvious that you won't be able to see him in your rear view mirror. Keep in mind also, that a blind spot can extend from 13 to 50 feet behind the car depending on the type of car and the height of the driver.
- **Walk all the way around your parked vehicle to check for children** - or anything that could attract a child, like pets or toys - under or behind your vehicle before getting in and starting the engine.
- **Accompany little kids** when they get in and out of a vehicle.
- **Identify and use safe play areas for children**, away from parked or moving vehicles. Block driveways so cars cannot enter and exit.
- **Designate a safe spot for children to wait** where a driver can see them, when nearby vehicles are about to move.

- **Firmly hold the hand of each child when walking near moving vehicles and when in driveways, in parking lots or on sidewalks.**



Even if you don't have little ones to worry about, be sure to check around your car and pay close attention when backing out of *all* parking lots and neighborhoods. Don't assume you have the "all clear". Safety first!

Sources: Safe Kids USA: www.safekids.org
About.com Pediatrics <http://pediatrics.about.com>

Graphics: charmfactory.com
Cristinaskybox.blogspot.com
Radarbackupsystems.com
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