



“Hot Car-Remember Baby”

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For the past several years, the Okfuskee County Community Partnership Board/Turning Point Coalition has sought to bring attention to the dangers of leaving children unattended in a vehicle.

The following information was obtained from the Department of Geosciences at San Francisco University, who keeps track of hyperthermia deaths across the United States. According to the Dept. of Geosciences, on any given day with ambient temperatures of 72 to 96 degrees, an automobile can heat up 19 degrees to 10 minutes, 29 degrees in 20 minutes, 34 degrees in 30 minutes and 43 degrees within 1 hour. Already, within 2009 there have been 25 child deaths from hyperthermia in the US. In 2008, there were 43. Important numbers to remember include: heatstroke occurs when the body core temperature reaches 104 and core body temperature of 107 is usually fatal. A child's body warms 3 to 5 times faster than an adult. August has been designated as Purple Ribbon Month.

4RjKIDSSAKE is a organization that generously supplies the prevention materials that are seen in businesses around town. Locally, Tanner Chevrolet has generously allowed us to use a vehicle in each of our awareness demonstrations. From August 3rd through 7th, the Partnership Board obtained an automobile at Tanner's Chevrolet multiple times per day. The weather was in the high 90's and the temperatures inside the automobile were astounding, reaching as high as 125 to 130 degrees. The Partnership Board seeks to bring awareness of this danger to families within our county. We believe that awareness is the key to preventing this tragedy. We appreciate the businesses that allowed us to put up window clings, posters and displays. We are very grateful to Tanner's Chevrolet for their generous use of vehicles every year.

The website www.4rkidssakeorg recommends these practices to prevent this tragedy:

“Make it a habit to look in the back seat as you vacate the car.

“Have a plan with the childcare provider to call you if your child has not arrived as expected.

“Place your purse or briefcase in the backseat with the child, making it necessary to look back there.

“Keep a stuffed animal in the front seat as a reminder that you have the child with you.

“Count people leaving the car so sleeping babies and toddlers are not overlooked.”

If you would like more information or are interested in joining the Partnership Board, contact or visit the Okfuskee Co. Health Department.