



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

Keep Kids Safe In And Around Cars This Summer

(Farmington, Utah) – The Davis County Safe Communities Coalition reminds parents and caregivers to keep children safe in and around cars.

Car seat checkpoints and safety events will be held at each end of the county to address this issue. The first event is Monday, June 28, from 4-7 p.m. at the Fire Station in Clearfield (88 East Center Street). The second event is Saturday, July 10, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Bountiful IHC (390 North Main Street).

Activities and information at these events include campaigns such as Boost ‘Til 8, Never Leave Your Child Alone, and Spot the Tot. Numerous certified car seat technicians will be available to ensure that you are using the right restraint for your child and that you are installing it correctly.

“It is important that parents keep their children in the proper restraint – car seat or booster seat – as long as necessary,” said Teresa Smith, a health educator for the Davis County Health Department. “Many parents are anxious to move to the next stage before their child is actually ready.”

A ‘Never Leave Your Child Alone’ display will be provided at these events aimed to educate parents and caregivers that it does not need to be a very hot day for a car to become too hot for a young child’s body. A child’s core body temperature rises 3 to 5 times faster than an adult’s and in just 10 minutes a car’s temperature can rise by 19 degrees and continues to rise as time goes on.

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According to Lewis Garrett, director of the county's health department, all parents are urged to never leave their child alone in a car for any reason or any amount of time. "Heat stroke can cause permanent brain injury or death and has affected children as old as 13," Garrett said.

"Sadly, many preventable injuries and deaths occur in driveways or parking lots when drivers – many of whom are loving family members – fail to see children near their vehicles," Smith said. A 'Spot the Tot' demonstration will be conducted at each event to encourage drivers to walk all the way around their vehicle before getting in the car. Parents are also encouraged to teach children safe places to play away from driveways and vehicles.

"Join us at these events and learn how to keep your child safe in and around cars this summer," said Smith. For questions regarding these events, please call (801) 451-3586.

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