

FAST FACTS FOR 2016 LOOK AGAIN CAMPAIGN

In only minutes, the inside of your car can become a deathtrap for a child.

Governor Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal are joining the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and other state agencies in asking you to always “Look Again” whenever you’re transporting children...and never leave children alone in a vehicle.

Since 2010, a total of ELEVEN children in Georgia died in vehicles as a result of heatstroke. **[Most recently a 13 month old boy in Rossville who was left unattended by his grandmother for more than five hours]** In most cases, the caregiver involved simply forgot they even had the child with them. The child had fallen asleep, the parent was on a different routine that day...all kinds of extenuating circumstances but minutes led to hours and hours led to death.

Raised awareness is making a difference: In FY2014, there were 18 substantiated cases where children were left in vehicles by child care providers for extended periods of time and survived. That number fell to 8 in FY2015 and so far only 7 for FY2016. This is a good trend but leaving even one child unattended in a vehicle is one too many.

Look Again is simply a message to anyone caring for a child --- child care programs, teachers, parents, and grandparents, anyone --- to always account for the children in your care as you drive them from place to place.

When you arrive at your destination, check the front and back of your car, and after you’ve looked, just to be sure, LOOK AGAIN.

Most of the child vehicular heatstroke deaths recorded recently in Georgia occurred while in a parent’s care inside the home, outside a church, outside a school, and in one instance outside a hospital. That’s why it’s important to ALWAYS keep your cars locked and the keys kept away from children. They see cars as playgrounds.

Heatstroke can occur even in milder months like May when its 79-degrees outside, the inside of a car can be closer to 142-degrees, especially with tinted windows holding in that heat.

Ten minutes is all it takes for the inside of a vehicle to reach deadly temperatures --- just ten minutes! A child’s body temperature heats up five times faster than an adult’s and when a child’s internal temperature gets to 104 degrees, major organs begin to shut down --- at 107 degrees, a child can die.

On May 31, Governor Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal will join Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs and other state agencies in raising public awareness. We have produced a public service announcement with the Governor and First Lady reminding everyone to “Look Again.” We hope through social media everyone will help us pass this important message along and keep the conversation going.

If you ever see a child left alone in a vehicle, call 911 immediately --- emergency personnel are trained to respond. We also like the acronym ACT: Avoid Heatstroke...Create Reminders...Take Action.

The most dangerous mistake is thinking it can’t happen to us --- like our family is somehow above all that --- or if we see it happening somewhere, it’s none of our business.