



November 21, 2017

## Alarm at number of children locked in vehicles

With temperatures rising, NSW Ambulance has issued a warning following a spike in the number of children locked in cars, including four today.

Since September 1, paramedics have been called to 81 children trapped in vehicles across the state, an average of about one child a day.

NSW Ambulance Chief Inspector Brian Parsell said temperatures inside vehicles can soar to well over 50 degrees.

"I recorded the temperature inside a car for some internal research last summer and it reached 78 degrees in just minutes," he said.

"Babies and small children are unable to regulate their body temperature as efficiently as adults. They absorb more heat from the environment than they can dissipate.

"This situation can quickly cause damage to body cells leading to unconsciousness, shock, organ failure and death. Even in milder temperatures, children and babies can get sick very quickly."

Chief Insp Parsell said in some cases children had been locked in cars accidentally and urged parents to be extra vigilant.

"Be mindful of vehicle security systems, in particular the location of keyless fobs which can lock cars if left inside the vehicle," he said.

Inspector Parsell was on scene at Glenwood on Christmas Eve last year when a three-year-old girl died after being left in a vehicle. "It only takes a few minutes and the consequences can be catastrophic," he said.

Chief Insp Parsell said no matter how quick a person thinks they are going to be, they should never intentionally leave a child – or pets - unattended in a car.

"The effort it takes to bring your child with you is nothing compared to the trauma of your child being left in an overheated vehicle."

If people find a distressed child locked in a car dial Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for Ambulance. Stay on the line until paramedics arrive.

### Incidents since September 1, 2017

1/9	Beecroft	2yo boy	Distressed. Locked in car.
5/9	Mount Druitt	Child	Locked in car
7/9	Haywards Bay	19mo baby	Locked in car
12/9	Church Point	15mo m	Locked in car
13/9	Oatley	4yo & 21 mos	Locked in car
13/9	Kings Park	1 child	Locked in car
18/9	Sydney Olympic Pk	3yo boy	Sweaty
22/9	Scone	2 x children	Locked in car
22/9	Old Toongabbie	7mo girl	Child screaming. Locked in car
23/9	Singleton	12mo baby	In car. Assessed by paramedics
23/9	Yagoona	2yo boy	Hot, vomiting. Transported to hospital.
24/9	Hurstville	7mo baby	Child hot
24/9	Lugarno	15mo boy	Uninjured
25/9	Casula	4mo baby	Locked in car
25/9	Glenwood	2yo girl	Child inside with car keys
28/9	Wiley Park	10mo baby	Crying

## Is your URGENCY an EMERGENCY?



29/9	Castle Hill	3yo girl	Distressed
30/9	Kellyville	16mo boy	Uninjured
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
3/10	Doonside	18mo child	Assessed by paramedics
3/10	Bondi	18mo child	Assessed
4/10	North Turramurra	2yo	Locked in car
5/10	Baulkham Hills	17mo	Rescue called
8/10	Maroubra	Child	Rescue called
9/10	Fairy Meadow	Child	Rescue called
9/10	Rosemeadow	6mo baby	Heat stressed
9/10	Leeton	2yo girl	Heat stressed
10/10	Kellyville	3yo, 12mo	Locked in car, sweating
16/10	Mount Druitt	3yo m	Locked in car, distressed
17/10	Drummoyne	2 x kids	Keys locked in car
18/10	Adamstown	6mo	Locked in car
19/10	Auburn	Child	Police rescue
19/10	Ambarvale	Baby	Locked in car
23/10	Greenacre	4yo boy	Locked in car. Sweaty
24/10	Keiraville	12mo girl	Locked in car
25/10	Terrigal	10mo	Locked in car. Distressed
25/10	Brookvale	Baby	Locked, not distressed
25/10	Hornsby	10mo, 3yo f	Locked in vehicle
26/10	Nowra	12mo girl	Locked herself in car
26/10	Wingham	8mo	Locked in car
30/10	Camperdown	22mo	Locked in car
31/10	Kogarah	2yo girl	Locked in car
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
1/11	Auburn	2yo	Locked in car
2/11	Ingleburn	3yo f	Locked in hot car
2/11	Orange	2yo	Locked inside vehicle
2/11	Wilberforce	16mo	Locked in car
3/11	Mount Annan	3mo baby	Baby locked in car, crying
3/11	Gladesville	2 children	Assessed by paramedics
6/11	Kirrawee	Child	Released by police
7/11	Green Valley	2 x kids	Locked for 30 mins
7/11	Goulburn	4mo baby	Baby distressed, heat affected
7/11	Sutherland	3 x kids	Locked in car
8/11	Sutherland	2 x kids	Locked in car. Hot and sweaty
9/11	Edensor Park	3mo baby	Declined transport to hospital
10/11	Rosemeadow	16mo baby	Locked in car
10/11	Cremorne	18mo baby	Locked, not distressed
11/11	Guildford	12mo baby	Locked in car
11/11	Cooks Hill	2mo baby	Locked in car
13/11	North Narrabeen	2 x babies	Heat affected
14/11	South Nowra	2yo child	Distressed
15/11	Bradbury	3 girls	Hot and sweaty
16/11	Castle Hill	2 children	Patients warm
19/11	Bass Hill	Baby	Locked in vehicle
21/11	Kellyville	2 x kids	Babies and mum distressed
21/11	Northbridge	2yo child	Assessed, quite hot
21/11	Darling Point	Baby	Baby locked in car

**Is your URGENCY an EMERGENCY?**