



**4 June 2007**

### **Driveway Safety**

According to Kidsafe NSW, one child is run over in the driveway of their home each week in Australia. Tragically, many of these accidents could have been prevented.

Studies show that many popular family vehicles have a large "blind zone" around and/or behind them. For this reason, it is important to take all possible precautions to ensure that children are safe.

Ambulance offers these tips to help keep your child safe:

- ALWAYS supervise children when a vehicle is to be moved. This may involve having someone else watch them while you move the vehicle, or alternatively having the child securely in the car with you
- ALWAYS be vigilant of what is going on around the car
- Avoid letting children use the driveway as a play area – encourage play in safer areas (such as the backyard or other fenced area)
- Consider using reversing cameras and sensors in your vehicle. The NRMA and the NSW Roads & Traffic Authority can advise you on these products
- Make driveway access difficult – for example, use fences, gates and doors around the area which children cannot access
- ALWAYS drive slowly when reversing – the NRMA recommends no more than five kilometres per hour.

Should a child be involved in a driveway or other motor vehicle accident, do not panic. The following steps should be taken to reduce the severity of the injury and prevent the condition worsening:

- **Call Triple Zero immediately and ask for Ambulance**
- Avoid moving the child unnecessarily – keep as still as possible. If the child is in a dangerous place (e.g. on the road) try to move them as gently as possible, if it is safe for you to do so. Try to keep the child's neck and back straight at all times
- If the child is unconscious, gently roll onto the side



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- Check whether the child is breathing and if they are conscious. If they are **not** breathing, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If they are unconscious and there are no signs of life, begin doing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). If you do not know how to do CPR, the Ambulance triple Zero operator will guide you through the process until the Ambulance arrives.
- If the child is bleeding – apply firm pressure to the wound with your hand. Keep pressure on until the Ambulance arrives.
- Try to keep your child calm. The best way to do this is by staying calm yourself.

Ambulance strongly recommends that everyone, especially those responsible for the care of children, undertake a first aid course. It may help you to save a life.

Remember, in a medical emergency **call Triple Zero and ask for Ambulance.**

For more information about how to keep you home and children safe, call Kidsafe NSW on (02) 9845-0890, or visit

[www.kidsafensw.org](http://www.kidsafensw.org)

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For further information or local media opportunities please contact Ambulance Media on (02) 9320-7796.