



## City of Greenacres

### Public Safety Department

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### **Child Safety Look Before You Lock Your Car**

All too often we hear about a child that is left behind in a hot car. This is a preventable tragedy. Nationally from January to June 2010, 24 children died of heat stroke after being left in a hot car. During this time frame, locally in Palm Beach County there were nearly 250 calls, of children being left in cars.

In Florida where the weather is hot throughout the year, children are at risk. It only takes a few minutes before a child left in a hot car suffers serious injury or death. The temperature in a car can rise to 120 degrees or higher in a matter of minutes. We need to be more aware and make it a priority to check our cars before we leave them.

#### **Here are some safety tips that you can do to prevent this tragedy.**

- Keep a visual reminder: leave a small baby item, stuffed animal or a sticky note with the word “baby” or “child” on your dash or in front passenger seat of your vehicle to remind you of the child riding in back.
- Put your briefcase, purse or cell phone (something you would never leave the car without) in the back seat so you will always look in the back of the vehicle and see your child when you remove your items.
- Use the buddy system: Team up with babysitters, grandparents, your spouse or your child’s caregivers so they call you every day at the same time to “remind” you that your child was in the car and is now expected at child care or with grandma. This is especially important when daily schedules change and someone new is driving your child somewhere.
- Review safety and procedures before you place your child into a child care center. Make sure that they use a name roster and double check the vans or buses when letting children on the bus or off the bus.
- Never leave a child in a car. Even if it is just for a minute.

For more information on child safety please feel free to contact **Crime Prevention Officer Rick Warren at 561-642-2133**