

# HOT TOPICS



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## DEATH OF FOUR YEAR OLD IS TRAGIC REMINDER TO NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN IN CARS

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Haley Gray, the 4-year-old girl found in her family's car in Scottsdale on Saturday, Sept. 10, died overnight at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Haley's death is a tragic reminder that doors on vacant cars should always be kept locked, and that children should never be left unattended in the vehicle – especially during the summer heat.

The Arizona temperatures may be dropping slightly, but the heat is still deadly. When temperatures reach 95 degrees Fahrenheit, even with a window partially open, the temperature inside a car can reach 122 degrees in 20 minutes and 150 degrees in 40 minutes. In these conditions, children can die very quickly - in a matter of minutes. Infants and small children are particularly vulnerable due to their body configurations. The younger the child, the faster the onset of heatstroke and dehydration.\*

- 75% of the temperature rise occurs within five minutes of closing the car and leaving it.
- 90% of the temperature rise occurs within 15 minutes.
- Dark colored cars reach slightly higher temperatures than light colored cars.
- The greater the amount of glass in the car (hatchbacks, etc.) the faster the rise in temperature.
- Larger cars heat up just as fast as smaller cars.

Having the windows down even one inch causes only a slight temperature drop.

\*According to a study by the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety