

Heatstroke to Children Left in Cars

Outdoor Stand-Up Temperature Display

Available for Use for Maryland Community Events

On average each year, 39 children die from heatstroke when left alone in cars. In 2022, **33** children died this way. Awareness and behavior modification among caregivers are key to preventing the majority of these tragic deaths. The Outdoor Stand-Up Temperature Display is an excellent tool to create awareness of how a vehicle can quickly heat up in the sun to where the inside temperatures would kill a child. This display features:

- A tall metal (78") **or** tripod free-standing display with two LCD temperature monitors attached at the top: one for the in-vehicle temperature and one for outside/ambient temperature.
- Cable connectors with thermometers to place in and outside the car.
- Large magnet-signs to place on display car to convey message.
- Safe Kids display sign for the middle of the frame.
- 100 foot extension cord.
- How to use display video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBFh3M4Kp74 ; tripod version: <https://youtu.be/zGPB8fYatDU>
- Handouts and posters for the public.



To Reserve this display:

For Montgomery/PG/Southern Maryland, Contact tacrisman@hotmail.com. For the rest of Maryland, contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, MEMSS' EMS for Children at cps@miemss.org or 410-706-1758 or c: 410-491-7803.

Guidelines for Use

- Arrange for pick up and return of the large and heavy display in its storage case.
- Return the display within four business days to the pre-arranged location.
- Arrange for an outdoor location for this: a parked vehicle is needed within 10 feet of the temperature display.
- Access to electricity is needed; a 100 foot extension cord is included with display.
- Do not expose the display to rain.
- Allow at least 30 minutes for set up time, with at least two strong people helping.
- Follow the directions for assembly carefully. Call 410-706-8647 if there are questions or concerns, or after hours, call Susanne Ogaitis at 410-491-7803.
- Ensure that someone will be near the display at all times.
- Properly pack and transport the display in its original case.
- Clean the display if needed with a soft, damp cloth.
- If any damages occur, you will be responsible for repairs or replacement.

Additional Activities to Accompany Display

- Place a doll or stuffed animal that doesn't look real strapped into a car seat inside the hot car. Use a car without dark windows to allow the car seat to be seen.
- Ask local car dealers to loan the vehicle, as a public service.
- Have supplemental materials available: handouts, posters to give away, or incentive items with campaign messages.
- Invite local media to cover the campaign and film the temperature changes.
- Cover the campaign on social media, with frequent updates of temperature changes and what that would mean to a child occupant of the car.
- Simultaneously conduct an inside display on the same subject by borrowing one of the 6' tall stand up posters ("Cars can overheat rapidly..." or "Take action..."). Contact cps@miemss.org to arrange this.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS)

653 West Pratt Street, 4th Floor

Baltimore, Maryland 21201; 410-706-1758

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