**OTHER DANGERS**

To prevent these and other injuries, always make the time to carefully supervise your children when in and around the car.

- **POWER WINDOWS**: Children can hurt themselves with power windows. Many have been injured when a window closes on their finger, wrist, or hand. Some have been strangled by power windows. This can be prevented by properly restraining children in car seats or seat belts, teaching your child not to play with the window switches, and utilizing the child window lock in your vehicle, when available.

- **SEATBELT ENTANGLEMENT**: A child who can reach a seat belt may become entangled if he or she pulls the seat belt all the way out and wraps the belt around his or her head, neck, or waist. To prevent entanglement, always ensure children are properly restrained and teach children that seat belts are not toys. Parents and caregivers should be aware that some seat belts have a retractor that locks if pulled all the way out.

- **TRUNK ENTRAPMENT**: Children are naturally inquisitive and often explore their surroundings. Hide and seek can turn deadly if they get trapped in the trunk, where temperatures can rise very quickly, resulting in heatstroke or asphyxiation. Lock your car doors and trunk and be sure keys and remote entry devices are out of sight and reach of children. Always teach your child that trunks and cars are not play areas.

- **VEHICLE ROLLAWAY**: While uncommon, some vehicles equipped with a keyless ignition or push-button start feature can roll away when the vehicle has been turned off and not shifted into park. It is essential to always engage your emergency brake when you park.

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**Child Safety Seats**

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children over the age of six months in the United States. The proper use of child safety seats is one of the simplest and most effective methods available for protecting the lives of our young children in the event of a motor vehicle crash.

**www.njsaferoads.com**

Click on the child safety seat icon for information on New Jersey Child Passenger Safety laws, frequently asked questions and how to find a Child Safety Seat Technician in your area. The Seat Check Schedule page lists places in New Jersey where you can get help learning how to select the right seat for your child, as well as information on the proper use and/or installation of child safety seats, booster seats and seat belts.

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**Additional Resources**

**NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)**


**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

www.nj.gov/dcf/families/safety/car/

**SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE**

www.safekids.org/and-around-cars

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Motor vehicle related injuries are a leading cause of death among children in the United States. The deaths and injuries caused by leaving children unattended in and around motor vehicles are predictable and preventable and can be greatly reduced with increased awareness of the risks associated with this dangerous practice.

The worst thing any parent or caregiver can say is “this would never happen to me.” There are far too many tragedies involving children being seriously hurt or killed while left unattended in or around a vehicle. Even the most conscientious parent can make a devastating mistake; children should be supervised at all times and never left alone inside or around a vehicle, always “look before you lock”.

Heatstroke, backovers, and frontovers are the most prevalent non-traffic fatalities involving children age 14 and under. Additional dangers include strangulation in seat belts or power windows, trunk entrapment, as well as injuries caused by accidental and uncontrolled movement of the vehicle.

Remember, these dangers are preventable with proper planning and diligent safety practices. Helpful prevention tips and safety resources, included in this brochure, can mean the difference between life and death.