Vehicle Safety Tips

Children should never be left alone in a vehicle, not even to run a quick errand. The following tips can help keep children safe.

- Plan ahead to use drive-through services where available such as pharmacies and banks. More and more services are adding drive-through convenience, including dry cleaners, restaurants (beyond fast food), libraries, grocery stores, and even dog grooming. A quick search on the Internet will help you find convenient drive-through services in your area.

- Call dry cleaners and other businesses to schedule pick-up and drop-off services at your vehicle. Most businesses will bring service curbside if you call ahead.

- Make advance arrangements for your child-care provider to meet you at your vehicle. Alternatively, plan extra time into your pick-up/drop-off routine to bring all children inside with you.

- Use your debit or credit card at the gas pump.

- Ask grocery store clerks to load your bags into your vehicle and return the grocery cart.

- If possible, leave your children with a responsible adult. Arrange a baby-sitting co-op with your neighbor to give you an hour to run errands.

Accidents can happen right in your own garage or driveway.

- Keep vehicles locked at all times -- even in the garage or driveway.
- Never leave keys within the reach of children.
- Teach children to never play in or around vehicles.
- Consider installing cross-view mirrors and/or a backup detection device on your vehicle.
- Make sure all young passengers have left your car after it is parked.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and trunks immediately.

*If a child is locked inside a vehicle, get them out as quickly as possible. If they are hot or appear sick, call 911*