

State Emergency Service

Media Release



Wednesday, 11 February, 2015

Parents urged not to leave children in parked cars

Ahead of the extreme heat forecast for much of South Australia later this week, the State Emergency Service (SES) is urging parents not to leave children in parked cars.

SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie said once the doors of a car are closed, the temperatures inside can quickly reach dangerous levels.

"Once the doors are closed, it can take only a few minutes for the temperatures inside a car to increase 20 to 30 degrees Celsius more than the outside temperature, even on a relatively mild summer's day," Mr Beattie said.

"If you do have to leave your car – even for a few minutes to buy something at the shop – you need to take your children with you," Mr Beattie said.

"A young child is much more sensitive to heat as their body temperature rises much more quickly.

"This puts them at much greater danger of heatstroke and other heat-related risks," Mr Beattie said.

Mr Beattie urged all South Australians to keep cool, remain well hydrated, and check on those at risk during this week's expected hot weather.

"Take some water with you if you do need to go out in the heat and aim to drink at least two to three litres of water daily," Mr Beattie said.

The SES urges South Australians to exercise care during the hot weather and take the following precautions:

- drink plenty of fluids but avoid alcoholic and caffeinated drinks
- make regular contact with elderly relatives, friends and neighbours, especially if they live alone, to ensure they are keeping cool and drinking plenty of fluids
- keep homes cool by closing blinds and curtains during the day and making good use of fans or airconditioners (which are on the cool setting)
- open up homes at night if it cools down
- never leave children or pets unattended in a car
- make use of airconditioned public facilities such as shopping centres, cinema and libraries
- be prepared for the possibility of power outages and keep in mind that some computers and telephones may not work during power outages. Make sure you have alternative means of communication
- consider the safety of your pets and animals. Wet them down and ensure they have adequate shade and water, and
- remember that, as the temperature rises, large trees may drop their branches without warning. Avoid parking or setting up campsites under trees with large overhanging branches and do not allow children to climb or play under them.

For media enquires telephone the SES Media Line on (08) 8211 6176

For SES response in floods or storms telephone 132 500. If the matter is life threatening telephone 000
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