



CHARLES COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# WATCH WORKS

SHERIFF TROY BERRY

JULY 2019

## July 4th

Independence  
Day

## July 16th

Full Moon



Happy 4th of July!



## Never leave a child in a car alone.

As summer temperatures continue to go up, it's important to remember that while these summer days are great for the pool and the beach, they're not so good for the inside of cars, which can raise to deadly temperatures in a very short period of time.

Children have been left in vehicles when the temperatures were as hot outside as 100 degrees and as mild as 76 degrees and have died. Many people are shocked to learn how hot the inside of a car can actually get. On an 80 degree day, the temperature inside of a car can rise 19 degrees in 10 minutes and keep getting hotter with each passing minute. You can only imagine what happens

when the temperature outside is 100 degrees or more. Cracking the window doesn't help. Heatstroke sets in when the body isn't able to cool itself quickly enough. Young children are particularly at risk, as their bodies heat up 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's. When a child's internal temperature reaches 104 degrees, major organs begin to shut down. When that child's temperature reaches 107 degrees, the child can die.

The number of child hot car deaths for 2019 is currently six; this number will be updated as new information becomes available throughout the year. On average, 38 children under the age of 15 die each year from

heatstroke after being left in a vehicle.

More than half occur when a driver forgets that the child is in the car. Almost 30 percent of the time, children get into a car on their own. The third scenario is when someone intentionally leaves a child alone in a car to run an errand (I'll just be gone a few minutes).

Remember ACT:

**A**void heatstroke related injuries by never leaving a child alone in a car.

**C**reate a reminder by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a purse.

**T**ake action: If you see a child alone in a car dial 911.

One call could save a life

# Amusement Park Safety

Planning a day at an amusement park? That is so exciting.

First thing you should do is take a picture of all that are in your group. Not only is it a great keepsake and reminder of your day, but if someone gets lost you will have a photo of what they were wearing and what they look like.

Second, point out a safe place like an info kiosk, shop or food venue that will be your meeting place. Make sure your kids know to check in if they are older either by phone or meeting every couple of hours.

Third, follow park rules. This may seem like a no-brainer but kids have been known to climb a fence or overload a ride or just ignoring warning from park employees. These rules are there to keep you safe so read them, follow them.

Fourth, respect the power of water. Know your child's swimming ability and don't allow them into a wave pool without a vest. Do not expect a lifeguard to look after your kids. They have so many kids to watch.

Take breaks. A few times a day get together and sit down and see how everyone is. Reapply sunscreen. Make sure the little ones aren't exhausted.

Be smart with food and drinks. Stay hydrated. During a hot day of sweating and running around you can become dehydrated before you know it.

Teach your kids to ride eyes front to protect their necks during sudden jerking movements. Make sure the ride is age appropriate for your child. If your child seems frightened for any reason, alert the operator before the ride starts so they can get off safely and

find another ride.

Make sure everyone understands how important it is to be latched, strapped or belted in before the ride begins. Make sure your children know if the ride stops temporarily for any reason, they should stay seated.

If your kid shows signs of a sudden headache, significant nausea or dizziness, fatigue, weakness or numbness and tingling, get them to a first aid station immediately. Parents know their kids the best and if these symptoms seem severe or significant, get help.

In case of sudden or severe weather, an outbreak of violence, an accident or any other emergencies, have an emergency escape plan and know where to meet your kids. Look for park's other fire exits instead of the main gate.



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# Severe Weather Safety Tips



If you have more time prepare for a major storm or hurricane. Your electricity could be out for a week.

Thunderstorms, tornados, hurricanes and high winds. We never know what to expect. Staying informed can be your first defense. You need to know what's coming. Local weather, news stations or a weather app can keep you informed.

Be prepared, don't run around the house looking for candles and flashlights after the electric goes out. Make sure you know where your flashlights and lanterns are along with extra batteries. You don't want to find your flashlight only to find the batteries are dead.

Don't use candles if possible. Especially if you have children or animals in the house. The flickering flame draws attention.

Do you have a first aid kit? Again, is there anything in it? Have you replaced the band-aides or the antiseptic wipes and ointment.

Do you need a generator to keep your refrigerator or freezer going? Make sure you have at least a 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day). At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food (tuna, soups, shelf stable milk). Don't forget a can opener for your canned food. Do you know where your extra set of car keys are? Keep some extra cash at home, preferably in small denominations (\$1, \$5). If electricity is out you won't be able to pump gas. Keep your tank full.

Don't let your prescriptions get lower than a weeks supply. Keep non-prescription (ibuprofen, antacids, etc.) available.

If you have an elderly person or an infant or disabled family member, keep necessary items available at your home. At least a weeks supply such as baby formula, wipes, diapers for

infants and adults.

If you know a major storm or hurricane is coming you may want to fill your bathtub with water to be used for flushing the toilet with a bucket or washing. If you have a gas grill you can warm foods or water. Make sure you have a full tank of gas.

Moist towlettes or baby wipes for personal sanitation. Garbage bags and plastic ties.

Make sure you keep your cell phone charged. Keep your tablets fully charged so that you can use them to send a message if there is no other way to communicate with someone.

It's never too late to prepare. Severe weather could be just around the corner. If you would like more information on severe weather preparedness, check out detailed plans from

<https://www.ready.gov/>





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**REMINDER**  
FROM THE  
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**LOCK YOUR  
VEHICLE  
DOORS**

**#9PMROUTINE**