

On the Road

Hints to help protect kids



Keeping your kids on the road to safety when in and around a car can be easier if you take these steps:

What you can do.

First, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), you should look for a car with these vehicle safety features:

- Rear-view cameras
- Interior trunk release
- Side-impact air bags
- Advanced frontal air bags
- Push-down/pull-up window switches
- Automatic door locks.

Next, the NHTSA says, you should always remember to:

1. Use a car seat for every trip – even when you're just going down the street. Select the car seat based on your child's age and size and always follow the manufacturer's directions. Make sure it's compatible with your vehicle by checking the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
2. Keep kids in the backseat at least through age 12.
3. Tell children not to play around vehicles. Before get-

ting into a vehicle, check around and behind it, as well as the surrounding area, to ensure no children are present.

4. Buckle and lock any unused seat belts to keep kids from getting tangled up in them.

5. Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, no matter how short the stop, or what the weather is, even if the windows are cracked. The car can heat up very quickly in almost all weather conditions. Even with moderate outside temperatures in the mid-60s, a vehicle's interior can quickly heat up to more than 110° F. In addition, if the ignition is on or the keys are in the ignition, children can accidentally cause the vehicle to roll or even drive away.

What can help?

To prevent precious cargo from being left in cars, one company has come up with an ingenious Rear Door Alert (RDA) technology. An industry first, the system was developed by two mothers who are also engineers at Nissan. It monitors when the rear door is opened and closed before and after the vehicle is in motion. The system responds with a series of notifications if a rear door was used prior to a trip but was not reopened after the trip. Once the vehicle is in park and the ignition is turned off, the system will first display a notification in the instrument panel and progresses to distinctive chirps of the horn to remind drivers to check the backseat. (NAPS)

What to do with a vehicle recall



Vehicles are expensive. When motorists drive their vehicles away from a dealership, they hope to travel many miles before they need to come back for maintenance. But manufacturers sometimes issue recalls that can affect drivers of both new and old vehicles.

Recalls are safety precautions taken should a portion of a vehicle or the entire car or truck not operate in the manner it was intended. In many instances, auto manufacturers will directly contact customers who are affected by a recall via a letter, email or both. Individuals also can stay current on recalls by visiting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website (www.NHTSA.gov).

According to AutoTrader, recalls are becoming more common because of the complexity of modern vehicles. NHTSA flagged nearly 22 million vehicles for safety issues in 2013, and that number is on the rise. Drivers can follow these important steps if they learn of a recall.

- Don't panic, but don't ignore recalls. The experts at Kelley Blue Book say recalls often occur due to a problem in the manufacturing process in similar models, and this issue may surface in other vehicles. Recalls do not guarantee vehicles will malfunction or break down. However, consumers are urged to take recalls seriously, adopting a "better safe than sorry" approach when recalls are announced.
- Follow the instructions. A

recall notice should come with instructions.

Instructions often advise drivers to take their vehicles to the dealership where the cars were purchased. Notices may provide information regarding nearby dealerships for drivers who have moved since buying their cars or trucks.

- No payment should be necessary. The cost of repairing the recalled part should not fall on your shoulders. Such repairs are paid by the manufacturer. The financial resource Bankrate.com notes that, "if you had the repair made before the recall was issued (up to a full year), the automaker is legally obligated to reimburse you, as long as you had the work done at one of its franchised dealers." Save all receipts for the work. If work was done by a private mechanic, drivers still may be eligible for reimbursement.

- Be patient. Dealerships are not responsible for making repairs until the date indicated on the recall notice, so motorists may need to wait before having their vehicles repaired.

- Request a loaner vehicle. In some instances, recalls may take a few days to fix. Although not every dealership may make loaner vehicles available, it's still worth requesting one so you are not inconvenienced.

Anyone having difficulty with a recall can contact the NHTSA online, by phone or by mail. Those who suspect a safety problem also can contact the agency and report their concerns.

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Send in your Recipes!

Our holiday recipe guide will be included with the Nov. 14 issue of The Progressor-Times and The Mohawk Leader.

Holiday Favorites

Recipe Contest

Send us some of your favorite recipes by Friday, Oct. 19, and we'll include them in our publication. You might even win a prize! We'll give two \$10 prizes.

We'd appreciate your recipe on a 3"x5" card if possible. Send your entries to: The Progressor-Times/Mohawk Leader, P.O. Box 37, Carey, OH 43316-0037, or e-mail news@theprogressortimes.com.

(Samples to your friends at the P-T/M-L are welcome, but not mandatory.)