

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Matthew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



It's hard to believe that 2005 is coming to a close. Thanksgiving is almost upon us and Christmas is just around the corner. Look

for the new VPD Patrol Camaro out and about on patrol. The Camaro is a special duty rig that will be used to promote the OSSOM, SADD, and Drug-Free programs. Remember, if you have a topic you would like me to address in this article please contact me at the station or send me an email via the VPD web site. If I do not know the answer I will find the information for you.

How many times have you

left your young children unattended in a vehicle? I know I have been guilty of this in the past when I go inside to pay for gas or grab a pop. The fact is that this is extremely dangerous. Most people underestimate the potential deadly consequences that include abduction, heat stroke, hypothermia, setting a vehicle in motion, trunk entrapment, or even fatal car crashes. We also need to be aware of and educate chil-

dren about being unattended around vehicles.

In Oregon, you could be guilty of a crime if you leave your young children alone in a vehicle. Child Neglect II (ORS 163.545) states you cannot leave a child unattended in any place for such a period of time as to be likely to endanger the health or welfare. Some safety tips include: keep vehicles locked at all times, never leave keys within reach of children,

teach them to never play in or around vehicles, and check vehicles and trunks immediately when a child is missing.

There have been many high profile abduction cases and deaths in recent months directly related to children being left in vehicles. Though the abduction threat is more prevalent outside of Vernonia it still could happen. If a child is locked in a car feel free to contact the VPD for assistance.

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