

These accidents are easily avoidable. Making the choice not to drive while intoxicated could save lives.

- Do not drink if you know that you will need to drive soon afterwards.
- If you plan to drink, figure out how you will get home ahead of time.
- Ask someone who is sober to drive you home.
- Discourage friends and family members from driving while intoxicated.
- Do not let yourself or your children get into the care of a driver who might be intoxicated.

Never Leave Children Alone in the Car

Leaving children alone in the car or leaving children alone around unlocked cars can be very dangerous.

- Children can overheat in cars very quickly. Overheating is one of the leading causes of car-related deaths in children under 14 and can be especially dangerous in the Arizona heat.
- Do not leave children alone in a car with the engine running or the keys in the car. This can lead to accidents where the car rolls away with your child inside.
- Children left alone around unlocked cars may lock themselves in the car or trunk, putting them at risk of overheating or suffocation.

These accidents can be easily avoided.

- Never leave your child alone in the car, no matter how quickly you expect to be back.
- Never leaving your engine running or leave your keys in the car.
- Leave important items like a phone, wallet, or briefcase next to a sleeping child so you do not forget they are there.
- Teach your children not to play in, under, or around cars.
- If you see a child inside of a locked car, call 9-1-1.

Crossing the Street

It is also important to be safe around cars even when you are not driving. Educate your family about how to safely cross the street and be sure to model these good habits.

- Before crossing the street, look right and then left for approaching cars.
- Only cross the street at designated crosswalks.
- Teach young children not to cross the street without holding the hand of a trusted adult.



Staying Safe Around Cars



Obey Traffic Laws

One of the easiest ways to lower your risk of injury while driving is to obey all traffic laws and drive as safely as possible.

- Follow the speed limit.
- Stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Avoid distractions while driving.
- Do not follow too closely behind the car in front of you.

Use Seat Belts

Even when driving carefully, there is always the possibility that an accident will happen. It is important to be prepared, and one of the best ways to do this is to always wear a seatbelt while driving. This is important because:

- Seatbelts save thousands of lives every year.
- Seatbelt significantly reduce the chances of injury when in a car accident.
- In Arizona, wearing a seatbelt is the law. If you or any of your passengers are not wearing seatbelts, you will have to pay a fine.

It is also important to ensure that you are wearing your seatbelt properly.

- The seat belt should be secured across your hips and the shoulder belt should lie across your chest.
- Do not wear the shoulder belt under your arm, behind your back, or across your neck. This could cause serious injury if you are in an accident.
- There should not be any slack in the belt. Ensure that children do not play with their seatbelts or create slack.

Car Seat Safety

Children who are too small to use a regular seat belt must be put in an appropriate car seat. Choosing the right car seat is very important to your child's safety.

- It can be dangerous to use the wrong car seat. Make sure your car seat is designed for your child's age, height, and weight.
- According to Arizona law, all children younger than 8 and 4'9" or shorter must be in a car seat or booster seat.
- Use the chart on the right to determine which type of car seat your child needs.

Once you have the right car seat, it is important to install it properly and secure your child correctly.

- Make sure that the harness sits snugly across your child's chest.
- Make sure the buckles and chest clip are secure.
- If you are unsure of how to use the car seat, ask your resettlement agency for help and additional resources.

Never Drive While Intoxicated

Driving after drinking or drug use is never safe and can put you, your passengers, and other drivers at risk of serious injury.

- Hundreds of people die each year because of accidents with intoxicated drivers
- Driving while intoxicated is illegal and will result in fine and time in jail

