



Toddler hit, killed by SUV driven by her mom

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A toddler was killed Monday afternoon when a sport utility vehicle driven by her mother hit her as it was being backed out of a residential driveway in far East El Paso, police said.

At about 3:40 p.m., the girl's mother was backing out a red Dodge Durango when the vehicle hit the 23-month-old girl in the driveway of a home in the 11300 block of Lake Nemi Drive, police spokesman Javier Sambrano said.

"She was backing out when, for unknown reasons, her 2-year-old daughter ended up getting in the back of the vehicle," Sambrano said.

Neighbors rushed to help and an ambulance was called, but the girl later died at Thomason Hospital, police said.

The names of the girl and her mother, who is 28 years old, were not released as an investigation continued Monday night.

Yellow police tape blocked off the small dead-end street as members of the Special Traffic Investigations Unit worked Monday evening.

No charges had been filed late Monday.

Children between the ages of 12 months and 23 months are the most frequent victims in "back-over" accidents, Janette E. Fennell, president and founder of the Kids and Cars advocacy group, told the El Paso Times last year.

Two children are killed each week nationally in similar accidents, usually with a parent or a close relative behind the wheel, Fennell said.

Safety advocates urge drivers to be certain young children are not behind or near a vehicle.

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