

Next Time you're behind the wheel, just PUT IT DOWN!

For more information please visit us online at

www.distraction.gov

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Distracted Driving - PART 1

The best way to help fight distracted driving is to get educated. The Florida Department of Transportation and its safety partners want you to better understand the safety threat posed by cell phone use on the roadways. Get the facts, spread the word, and help us keep the roadways safe.

1. What is distracted driving?

Distracted driving occurs any time you take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off your primary task: driving safely. **Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.**

2. Who are the most serious offenders?

Our youngest and most inexperienced drivers are most at risk, with 16% of all distracted driving crashes involving drivers under 20. But they are not alone. **At any given moment during daylight hours, over 800,000 vehicles are being driven by someone using a hand-held cell phone.**

3. Sending or reading one text is pretty quick, unlike a phone conversation - wouldn't that be okay?

Texting is the most alarming distraction because it involves manual, visual, and cognitive distraction simultaneously. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field, blindfolded. It's extraordinarily dangerous.

No message, no phone call, nothing is worth driving while distracted.

Join FDOT and its partners and make the safety pledge.

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Statistics of Distracted Driving

18% of injury crashes in 2010 involved reports of distracted driving.

40% of American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger.



Joe Teater
Dead at 12

In 2010, **3,092** people were killed on U.S. roadways and an estimated additional **416,000** were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.

11% of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. This age group has the largest population of distracted drivers.



Brittanie Montgomery
Dead at 19

Drivers who use hand-held devices are **four times** more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.



Casey Feldman
Dead at 21

Text messaging creates a crash risk **twenty-three times** worse than driving while not distracted.

Of 1,999 teens (ages 16-19) surveyed **86%** have driven while distracted even though **84%** know it's dangerous.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Distracted Driving - PART 2

The best way to help fight distracted driving is to get educated. The Florida Department of Transportation and its safety partners want you to better understand the safety threat posed by cell phone use on the roadways. Get the facts, spread the word, and help us keep the roadways safe.

1. Is it safe to use a hands-free device to talk on a cell phone while driving?

So far, the research indicates that the cognitive distraction of having a hands-free phone conversation causes drivers to miss the important visual and audio cues that would ordinarily help you avoid a crash.

2. Is distracted driving against the law?

Every state has different laws related to distracted driving. In Florida, Preemption Law prohibits local governments from enacting distracted driving bans. But every person can make a difference...contact your local and state legislators to help change the laws in Florida.

3. What can I do to help?

You've already taken the first step by learning about the dangers of distracted driving. Now, **take the pledge** to drive phone-free and turn your cell phone off when you turn your ignition on. And if you're a passenger, make sure your driver does the same.

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The Faces of Distracted Driving

Chelsey Murphy, 19
Naples, Florida

On March 9, 2010, 19-year-old Chelsey Murphy and her unborn child were killed when a teen driver talking on his cell phone struck her as she was crossing an intersection near her home in Naples, Florida.



Eric Okerblom, 19
Santa Monica, California

On July 25, 2009, 19-year-old Eric Okerblom was killed when his bike was struck by a truck traveling at 60 MPH. Cell phone records indicate that the driver was texting just prior to the collision.



Ashley Johnson, 16
Asheville, North Carolina

On May 10, 2010, 16-year-old Ashley Johnson was killed when she lost control of her vehicle, crossed the center line, and hit a pickup truck head-on. Although her father had warned her against cell phone use behind the wheel, she was texting at the time of the crash.



Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the message and forget the faces of those who have suffered as a result of distracted driving.

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