The Dangers of Distracted Driving

Economic Impact

- $40 billion—estimated cost of distracted driving-related fatalities.\(^{11}\)
- $4.2 billion—estimated societal harm costs due to distracted driving.\(^{12}\)

Numbers to Know

- 2x—Texting or dialing while driving doubles the incidence of crash involvement for experienced drivers.\(^ {4}\)
- 8x—Texting or dialing a cell phone drastically increase the incidents of crash involvement for novice drivers.\(^ {5}\)
- 36%—Crashes that could be avoided if driver distraction was not a factor.\(^ {6}\)
- 9%—Drivers at any point during the day who use their cell phones while driving.\(^ {7}\)
- 40%—Drivers who have almost been in a crash because they were distracted.\(^ {8}\)
- 120 feet—the distance required for a car to stop at 40 mph. A fraction delay can increase this distance by several car lengths.\(^ {9}\)
- 32—Counties, as of 2019, have passed laws banning cell phone use while driving and Portugal banned the use of cell phones, hand-held and hands-free, while driving.\(^ {10}\)

Myth: Multi-tasking

Human brains cannot handle more than one task at a time.

The brain goes through a specific process to deal with the information it is constantly taking in.\(^ {2}\)

Information in driving environment missed by drivers using cell phones.\(^ {3}\)

>50%

Footnotes can be found at www.theiACP.org/DDtoolkit/footnotes
The Dangers of Distracted Driving by Law Enforcement Officers

On average, it takes **five seconds to send or read a text message**. When going 55 mph with your eyes focused on your phone, during that time, a car can travel the length of a football field.¹

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<td>The brain is not able to process two things at one time. While driving, the brain will switch between driving and the distraction, slowing down the reaction time.⁵</td>
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Data retrieved from the Officer Down Memorial website; from 2016 through 2018, roughly 34 officers died in single-vehicle collisions on the roadway.² This number includes vehicles that left the roadway or collided with an object as well as those that died due to injuries sustained due to the crash.

People are distracted up to **27 seconds** after they finish sending a voice text.⁵

It takes approximately **3/4 second to react to a perceived threat and an additional 3/4 second to act**; moving foot to break pedal. To slowdown from 55 mph, it can take about **1.5 seconds or 4.5 seconds for your car to come to a complete stop**. Doubling your speed quadruples your stopping distance.⁴

Coffee

Duty bag in front seat

Meal bag

Mobile display terminal

Mounted radar

Interior Lights

Microphone for outer speaker

Quick access button to the siren and horn

AM/FM radio

Laptop

Body worn camera

Cell phones (personal and agency)

Radar remote control

Siren/horn control pad

Multi-channel radio

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