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DISTRACTED DRIVING

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Distracted driving is a dangerous habit. While texting is most often associated with distraction in the car, other distractions include eating, drinking, grooming and passengers in the car. Some of these actions seem more innocuous than others, but all forms of distracted driving are reckless and endanger lives. The Carolina Cares, Don't Text and Drive campaign encourages precautionary measure to curb the number of vehicles accidents due to distracted driving.

The Law

Buckle Up

According to the Department of Public Safety, seatbelt usage has increased across the state by 2%. In 2016, South Carolina still lost more than 320 lives in accidents where drivers were not wearing seatbelts.

Drinking and Driving

According to 2014 data, thirty-four percent of the fatalities were related to alcohol impaired driving. While preliminary 2015 data shows that 31% of all fatalities involved a DUI. Department of Public Safety is implementing a Sober or Slammer campaign and they are enforcing the law. Don't drink and drive!

"It's true, we are some of the worst drivers in the country..."

- Director Ray Farmer



Distracted driving is an activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. These types of distractions include, but are not limited to, texting, cell phone usage, grooming and eating.



Statistics

- SC ranks number 1 in the Fatalities Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled.
- 1,015 people died in traffic accidents on SC roads in 2016.
- SC ranks 3rd in the nation for having the worst drivers.
- SC ranks 7th in both speeding and careless driving.
- Nationally, fatal accidents have increased 7%. This is the greatest year-over-year increase since 1966.
- Also nationally, data shows that 64% of all car accidents involve cell phone usage.

1,015
Lives lost in 2016

What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is an activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger drivers, passengers, and bystander safety. These type of distractions include: texting, using a cell phone, eating, and grooming— among others.

What Can We Do?

- We need to buckle up when we get in the car— it is the law.
- We need to put the phone down and pay attention to the road.
- We need to not drink and drive— it is also the law.

Facts

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded!



Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-25 year olds and distracted driving is prevalent among teens. However, most all of us are guilty of driving distracted at one time or another.

