How can you survive the drive?

Here at Survive the Drive we give you the best ways on how to make every drive a safe one. Too many people suffer every day for the decisions a single driver makes when driving distracted and we are here to spread the word and to do our part to make sure you and all your loved ones are safe from the moment they step in the car to the moment they leave it. So come join us every week, as we explore new ways to be safe on the road and to survive the drive.

To get your picture in the magazine email us at survivethedrive@gmail.com
You bring your car to a halt as you sit patiently and wait for the traffic light to turn green. The buzz in your pocket reminds you of the unchecked text message you have waiting to be read on your phone. Do you check it? Is it worth the risk?

Last year an astonishing number of about 1.3 billion people were killed due to distractions similar to this, and over 50 million were injured. (Sarl, 2011).

Distracted driving is an assortment of scenarios. Simple things such as changing the radio station, eating, looking at a passenger while having a conversation, changing the AC in your car, texting, and many others can be defined as distracted driving and lead to injury or a fatal accident.

It is of utmost importance that people realize how crucial it is to maintain full attention when operating a vehicle. As simple as one quick text, looking in the mirror to put on makeup, or quickly glancing at the dashboard to change the radio can result in a life altering accident.

Not everyone realizes how dangerous it is to do the simplest thing while driving. Our hope at Survive the Drive is to open the eyes of understanding so that loved ones arrive safely at all destinations.

Our message is that it’s not only important that you understand this, but make others aware as well so that they don’t cause an accident.

Rebekah Brewer

Time Cannot Be Reversed

Tick: It’s Christmas day and a car moves down an empty road. Tick. The driver is late for the family party and continues to check the time anxiously. Tick. She had planned on not being late just this one time. Tick. A single beep pierces the calm atmosphere of the car and pulls the drivers focus for just a moment. Tick.

The beckoning call of the text overpowered the driver’s attention and she takes one last glance at the open road before leaning down to inspect her text. Tick. In that short time her eyes were off the road, she had failed to notice the bright red ball that bounced into the street nor the little boy who ran close behind it. Tick. Nothing will ever be the same again. Tick.

Time moved quickly prior to the accident, but slowly after as the driver and those involved in drivers mistake has to live through the consequences.

Time is not something that can be taken back. It is given and is spent. Yet, as drivers many of us fail to realize the importance of time and how it can drastically change our lives and the lives of others.

Five seconds is all it takes to read a text.

Five seconds is also the time it takes to cover an entire football field. Therefore, five ticks is the border between life and death.

The thing we have to ask ourselves is simple. Is this distraction really worth it? It is common for people to rationalize and to think “That stuff never happens to me. I’m safe while I drive and I never look away for too long.” But, rationalizing is simply this— rational lies.

This false hope of safety is often what blinds us from the truth. No matter who you are, you will always be putting lives in danger when you text and drive when you are distracted behind the wheel.

Tick — and live, the better choice.

Brianna Koener

TIPS FOR SAFE DRIVING

- Put all loose materials away in a secured place.
- Do not text and drive.
- Use a Bluetooth ear piece for phone calls.
- Keep music at a minimum.
- Do not eat or drink while driving.
- Do not apply makeup while driving.
- Do not shave while driving.
- Do not stare at accidents that have happened on the streets.
- If you have a passenger, allow him to send your text instead of you.
- Use the sound on GPS instead of looking at the map while driving.
- Adjust mirrors before you start driving.
- Do not reach for items while you are driving.
- Avoid staring at advertisement, scenic view, and law enforcement involvement.
Someone who is distracted visually, manually, or cognitively, isn’t focused on the road and is in danger and so are others. Even if you are a safe driver, if you are distracted you won’t be aware of the bad drivers around you and therefore won’t be able to react.

There are various results of distracted driving, none of them resulting positively. Ranging from small embarrassing mistakes to the loss of multiple lives, nothing good can come from a distracted driver. In 2011, sadly 387,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver, and even worse 3,331 were killed (NHTSA, 2013).

Not only does distracted driving affect you, but it affects anyone who is in the car with you. Once a passenger gets into your car, you are responsible for their life and the life of those sharing the road with you; for this reason, driving should be taken seriously. An observational survey conducted in October of 2013 near the drop off point at a local high school resulted in some startling statistics.

Data collectors watched for specific distractions and compiled data of 660 vehicles. Surprisingly, of the 660 vehicles observed 432 had distracted drivers resulting in an astounding 65% of drivers putting students, pedestrians, and passengers in danger.

Taking your hands off the wheel, or eyes and mind off the road for a split second isn’t worth it.

Stephanie Winning

Below are two graphic representations of the local data collected by Survive the Drive compared to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) of 2011 which illustrates the data as collected from police reports of distracted driving fatalities.

Survive the Drive collected observational data only and our results mirrored the national statistics percentage wise in the types of distractions that continue to occur.

Shockingly, however, they illustrate that an overwhelming number 65% of vehicles are driving distracted which means teetering on the basis of luck or no luck awaits an accident.

As a community, we have much work to be done getting the word out. Talk to your kids; share our results with your neighbors, post reminders on Facebook; make a daily tweet; follow safe drivers on Instagram.

Do something today and every day. Be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

Cody Wong
WHAT TO SAY
What do you say to a person who is putting your life in danger by texting and driving?

Can I type out that message for you?
Could that message wait until we get home?
I’m sorry but I don’t feel comfortable with your eyes off the road.
Could we pull over so you can finish your conversation?