Deadly Distractions

Page 2 features distracted driving survey results! Find out what happening nationally and what you can do to better yourself!

Then on Page 3 view the nationally collected statistics!
While an overwhelming majority of teens (97%) admit that texting while driving is dangerous, nearly half (43%) admitted to doing it. -movinginsider.com

“Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety.” (distraction.gov)

Today distracted driving is more dangerous than ever before. Not only are drivers in danger of being engaged in distracting activities, but everyone on the road is in danger of being harmed in a dangerous collision.

Social media and schools consistently warn teens about the dangers of driving. When ever there is an opportunity to inform new drivers of the dangers of driving, it is taken seriously. Schools now offer presentations and informative activities to attempt to create a safer travel for everyone on the roads.

Does this actually help though? Of course it can be argued that it helps prevent tragedies behind the wheel, and of course it helps inform teens of the possible dangers and tragedies. The real question is do these drivers actually enforce the tips given to them? 60% of drivers use cell phones while driving. (2011, Harris Poll). We warn drivers constantly, but not always is it taken seriously. Typically, when spoken to about distracted driving, it only warns the driver for a short period of time. Somehow drivers are convinced that they startling accidents couldn’t possibly happen to them. This is a common belief until “them” become “me”.

In 2011, at least 23% of auto collisions involved cell phones. (textinganddrivingsafety.com). Over a million people die each year due to the use of cell phones while driving alone. There are many different forms of distracted driving, and each one could potentially lead to disaster. The road has become more dangerous than ever. As a driver,
It is extremely important that drivers recognize the dangers that driving distracted can provide.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10% of fatal crashes in 2011 were reported as distraction-affected crashes, while 17% of injury crashes in 2011 were also distraction-affected. All this disaster caused by distraction. As simple as this may seem at the moment may seem behind the wheel, the next moment may prove otherwise.

New drivers are constantly warned to remain safe on the road. More specifically, we assure high school students understand this. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 11% of all drivers 15-19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes. It was also reported that this age group has the largest proportion of drivers were distracted. Teens are more prone to use their cellphone or become distracted.

How does this apply to my area?

As a group of teenagers at Centennial High School, we observed drivers who drive past our school in the morning and afternoon. We looked at several factors that could contribute to distraction. These factors included drivers holding a phone to their ear (characteristic 1), speaking with a visible headset (characteristic 2), adjusting the radio or other dashboard device (characteristic 3), having a conversations looking away from the road at passengers (characteristic 4), eating/drinking (characteristic 5), and finally texting or manipulating a held-held device (characteristic 6). Even our neighborhood is no exception to the dangers of distracted driving.

The most common distraction we observed was characteristic 4, which is having a conversation that involves looking away from the road at passengers. As simple as this may sound, it still takes your eyes away from the road. The second most common was adjusting the radio. This is more than often not thought of to be a distraction. This is one characteristic that is commonly ignored. Surprisingly, cell phones were second to last. That just goes to show that there are more common distractions than texting.

Whether its in a high school parking lot or a highway, distracted driving is on every road we drive on. Every year there are devastating results that are provoked by these distractions. Every driver, passenger, citizen, family member, friend, loved one is in danger of harm. Simple distractions are not worth the disastrous results that can follow. Together, one by one, we must do our part and pay full attention to the road. This is for everyone’s safety, including our own. Be safe, pay attention.
Don’t Accuse, Inform
When telling someone about distracted driving don’t accuse them of driving distracted but inform them about the 4 types of distracted driving.

It Isn’t Just Them
Don’t make them think they’re the only one who is driving distracted, make sure they know it’s a nationwide problem.

Help Out
No problem gets solved by itself. If a friend goes to change the radio offer to change it for them so that they can focus on driving safely.