Distracted Driving: Give Life Your Undivided Attention

A Simple Cause. A Devastating Effect.
According to our recent survey, 63.8% of drivers will be distracted in at least one way behind the wheel. Sixty three point eight percent. That is a ridiculously high number. Distracted driving is typically described as driving while distracted by something such as a cell phone, beverage, cosmetic, or other diverting objects. Having 63.8% of drivers willingly drive while distracted is not only a disturbing thought, but it is now also a reality. This crisis must come to an end. 63.8% of drivers being distracted is unnecessary, and downright scary.

When it comes to distracted driving, there is no debate. Common sense and logic would show that willingly taking your eyes off the road is a bad idea. You need to see to drive, and if you can’t see, it is a severe hindrance on your driving ability. It shouldn’t need any defense past that, right? However, many do not see the importance of what they are doing and how dangerous it is to the world around them. The defense of safe driving goes much farther beyond simply saying it is a bad idea. Consider how much attention is required for driving. The art of driving is a careful blend of monitoring yourself and the environment around you. You have to be completely aware of everything going on around you. There really is no room for error. That’s why it’s such a bad idea. When you’re in a multi-thousand pound vehicle, the potential for injury and damage is very high if things go wrong, and there is no reason to increase these chances.

There is a very simple solution to distracted driving. Just don’t do it. Some choices are complicated; others are very simple. However, many people continue in their failure to realize the importance of simple acts, like keeping your eyes, and thoughts, on the road. This is why we need to spread the word, as far and as quickly as possible, so that we can improve the way we live and save the lives of those who took no part in the inconsiderate and dangerous act of distracted driving.

When it comes to driving, your undivided attention is the best option. With so much on the line, there’s no logic in risking the lives of yourself and others for a phone call, drink, text, or tweet. The risks far outweigh the benefit. We live in a world of hyperbole, but there is no exaggeration in saying dangerously unfocused driving behavior must come to an end.
Distracted driving is plaguing the nation, claiming a rising number of victims every day. We know the risks that form around these decisions, yet we ignore the possibility that we, out of billions, could be the cause of such. It seems as if a text is so important; until you are forced through a traumatic experience that changes your life forever. Despite all the accidents we hear about and live through, we do not heed their warning. People get so caught up in their lives and their responsibilities that they fail to see the affect they could have on everyone else’s world. We must start realizing the effects we have on others, on and off the road, so that we may come together to stop distracted driving.

Taking your eyes off the road for even a moment can lead to utter devastation. Considering such consequences, it’s almost disgusting to think of all the menial things drivers do on the road. Whether it’s tuning the radio, texting, calling, eating, drinking, or even conversing with a passenger, everyone seems to be doing something other than driving while behind the wheel. Each of these actions create a frighteningly dangerous roadway for you and your fellow drivers. Distractions also increase with modern advancements in technology. Texting and phone call are some of the most occurring distractions, and are becoming a serious problem for drivers globally.

A group of high school students have conducted a survey based on distracted driving. This survey portrays their state results which they have compared to results from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, “Traffic Safety Facts” article. The differences we have found were that state results showed a much higher amount of distraction then national results due to the idea that, our results were based on distracted drivers as a clear action, while the national results were based on the number of car crashes caused by an unfocused driver.

The state results show that the most common form of distraction driving while holding a conversation with a passenger in the car, which also calls for looking away from the road ahead of you. National results show that inattention was also the most common form across the country therefore this shows that even with a larger set of data many people still find themselves lacking attention to the road due to other things in the vehicle. More likely results, as shown on the following graphs, are drivers holding their phones to their ears, and drivers adjusting radio stations.

The level of distracted driving in our area is far too high, it’s rare to find a driver whom is focused and not distracted. Though it does not come as a big surprise that there are so many distracted drivers in the state but considering the fact that our survey was conducted at the intersection near a large high school, the amount of drivers was rather shocking and incredibly dangerous. These charts depict the amount of drivers whom were focused compared to distracted ones as well as the many different forms of distractions taking place.
Distracted Driving Prevention Checklist:

By Tyler Crump

- Keep your eyes on the road
- Keep your hands on the wheel at all times
- Avoid getting involved with distracting devices, such as the radio and cell phones
- Have a friend or family member be your designated texter
- Pull over well off the road if you feel you need to send a text
- Avoid driving while upset or emotional
- Do not eat or drink while driving
- Don’t drive intoxicated
- Keep conversation to a minimum on the road
- Avoid driving while sick or experiencing physical or emotional pain. These can be huge distractors.
- Pull over if you feel tired or drowsy
- Make sure that your cell phone is out of reach to avoid any temptation to use it

Avoid all types of distracted driving because that one text, could be your last.