



April Safety Tips – Distracted Driving Awareness

3x More Likely to Crash!

According to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, engaging in visual-manual subtasks while driving—such as reaching for a phone, dialing and texting—increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times! Texting while driving is much worse. [Texting creates a crash risk 23x worse than not driving distracted!](#)

- Never talk, text, email or use apps on a cell phone while driving. It's Not Worth It!
- Record a new outgoing voicemail message that says you can't come to the phone because you're busy OR because you may be driving. This communicates that you care about safety to your caller.
- Never call or text anyone else when you think they may be driving, especially if you are a parent trying to call your kids.
- If a call or text absolutely cannot wait, pull over into a parking spot and safely conduct your call.
- Never reach for anything dropped on the floorboard, back seat or other side of the car.
- Conduct grooming activities at home.
- Eat before you leave the house, or stop along the way to grab a bite.
- Adjust all of your radio controls and set your song playlist before you hit the road.
- Listen to—do not watch—GPS devices. Input your destination before leaving or pull over to change your route if necessary.
- Never take notes, look at a map, or dig around in a purse, glove box, or in the backseat while driving.
- Find a safe spot to pull over and stop the vehicle!

High Visibility, Zero Tolerance Enforcement

During the entire month of April, the CHP and hundreds of law enforcement agencies will conduct high-visibility zero tolerance enforcement of ticketing for distracted driving. Those caught talking or texting on a cell phone, or other handheld device, will be ticketed. A first offense ticket costs a minimum of \$162 and subsequent offenses can cost at least \$282.

Don't let it cost your life!

To avoid traffic fines, car crashes, and the life-altering consequences that come from distracted driving, eliminate your distractions when behind the wheel. For more information regarding distracted driving facts, please visit www.ots.ca.gov.