



Who's the Most Distracted Driver

Distracted driving includes any action that takes your attention away from driving and the road. This includes but is not limited to: talking, texting, or using driving directions or other apps on your cell phone, eating or drinking, fiddling with the radio and/or navigation system, or even simply talking to passengers in the vehicle. As law enforcement works to combat the problem, they say it's hard to catch drivers in the act and that preventing distracted driving comes from educating the community. Law enforcement, isn't off the hook though, surprisingly they are also part of the problem.

Doing Everything but Driving

- California Post Distracted Driving Video
<https://www.post.ca.gov/safe-driving-videos.aspx>

It's Law Enforcement

Distractions are everywhere!

- Patrol Driving
 - Monitoring for traffic offenses, watching people/property
 - In-cab distractions (radio, phones, computer, radar, license plate reader, etc.)
- Emergency Response Driving
 - Exterior cab hazards (traffic, intersections, other responders, weather, etc.)
 - In-cab distraction (radio, phones, computer, radar, license plate reader, etc.)

Five Seconds

- Average time your eyes are off the road
- Going 55 mph, enough time to travel a football field
- Law enforcement use of computers can be similar to testing
- Officers offer no benefit if they never make it to that call for help, report of a shooting, or high-priority call... FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin 2/4/14

Is It Too Much Technology?

- NO; it's how we use the technology

Distracted Driving: Things to Know

- "...is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger drivers, passengers and bystander safety." Source: Distraction.Gov website
- "Focusing on anything other than driving, while driving". -Richard Ashton, Retired Chief, Police Chief Magazine
- Driving + Stress + Distractions = Errors
- Distraction has three components
 - Visual – taking eyes off road
 - Manual – taking hand(s) off the wheel
 - Cognitive – taking mind off primary task of driving...
 - Trying to multi-task
 - Secondary tasks compete with primary task (driving)
- Understanding the Distracted Brain (DistractedDriving.NSC.Org)
 - A must read
- Cognitive Distraction
 - Inattention Blindness
 - When people do two cognitively complex tasks (driving and using a cell phone is example), causes brain to shift focus to one of them as primary - but which one?
 - "looking" but not "seeing"

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Unnecessary Law Enforcement Claims

- Collisions resulting from computer/MDT use
- Any intersection collision where officer is charged with reckless driving
- No lights/sirens emergency = no defense/chance for immunity
- Abuse of "code 3"; not on duty, going home/station/lunch
- Any "code 3" intersection collision > 40 MPH

FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

- ...a reduction in the number of officers killed in vehicle accidents can result if they simply reduce their speed and wear a seatbelt. Applying these two factors can save many of the lives of law enforcement professionals.

Solutions

- Clarify your "Response Driving" position and vision. Make sure your procedures address your intended actions and State emergency vehicle requirements.
- Train for policy knowledge and field utilization. Training without direction is a black hole. Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) - use them. Focus on the decision making (class) portion: approaching intersections, when not to use electronics, clearing intersections and distracted driving in all phases.
- Investigate accidents and enforce policy.

Resources

- Understanding the Distracted Brain - Source: National Safety Council and DistractedDriving.NSC.Org

Videos

- California Post – Safe Driving Videos
<https://www.post.ca.gov/safe-driving-videos.aspx>
- Sample software for laptop
<http://www.srrsllc.biz/default.htm>

Contact Us

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