

Distracted Driving Enforcement and Education

Colorado State Patrol

Sergeant Blake White

Master Trooper Gary Cutler



If you're texting,
you're not driving.



U DRIVE. U TEXT.



25 ↓

Drivers under 25 are much more
likely to use a handheld cell phone

while driving than all
other age groups.



Source: 2015, NOPUS



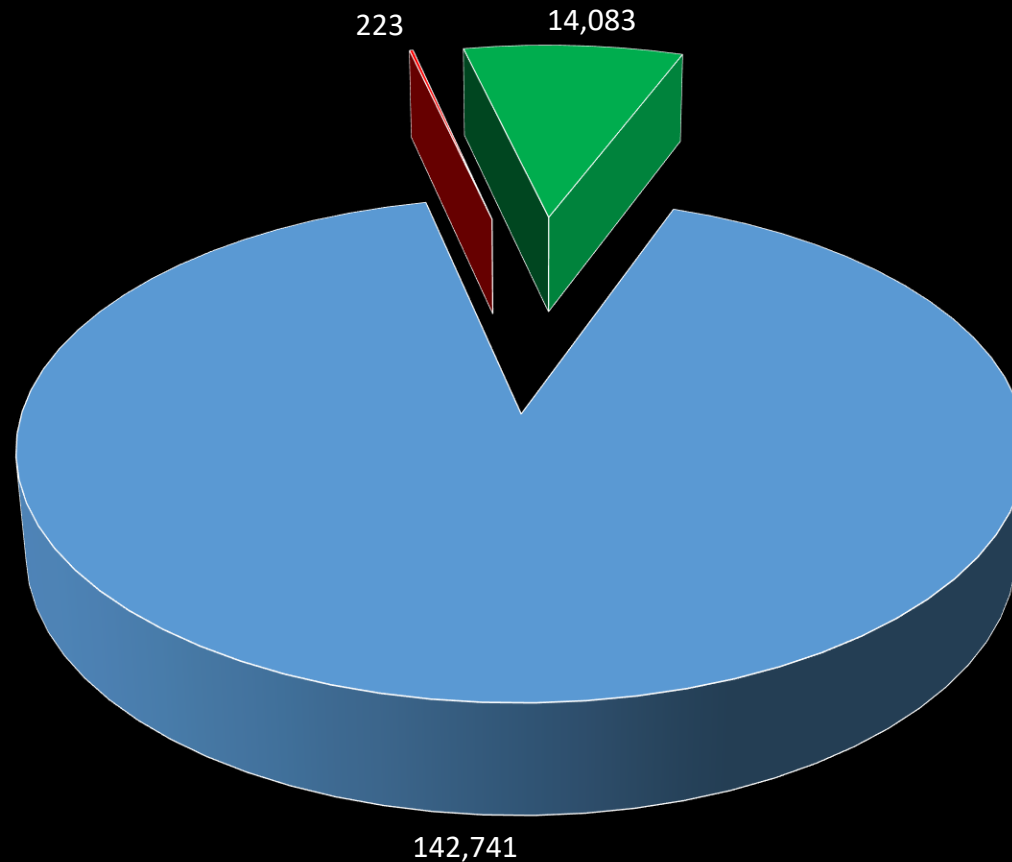
Colorado Revised Statute 42-4-239

Misuse of Wireless Telephone

- (3) A person shall not use a wireless telephone for the purpose of engaging in text messaging or other similar forms of manual data entry or transmission while operating a motor vehicle.
- (6)(b) An operator of a motor vehicle shall not be cited for a violation of subsection (3) of this section unless a law enforcement officer saw the operator use a wireless telephone for the purpose of engaging in text messaging or other similar forms of manual data entry or transmission, in a manner that caused the operator to drive in a careless and imprudent manner, without due regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic, and use of the streets and highways and all other attendant circumstances, as prohibited by section 42-4-1402 .



Colorado State Patrol Citations 2019



■ Total 2019 ■ Adult Texting ■ Careless Driving



Social Media Education

- Facebook:

- 1st Quarter – 270,255
- 2nd Quarter – 291,199
- 3rd Quarter – 266,599
- 4th Quarter – 223,287

- TOTAL REACH 1,051,340



Social Media Education

• Twitter:

- 1st Quarter – 89,176
- 2nd Quarter – 168,814
- 3rd Quarter – 74,719
- 4th Quarter – 56,707

- TOTAL REACH 389,416





CSP Public Affairs
@CSP_News



Averaging one life lost a day. Not acceptable. We must all do better.



4:11 PM · Apr 17, 2019 · Twitter Web Client



CSP Public Affairs
@CSP_News



We appreciate safe driving at crash scenes, but staring at it (or worse, filming it) when you go by makes everyone unsafe and slows it all down. Drive safe, and drive right on by.



9:54 AM · Aug 27, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone





As you can see, had Sergeant White had his hands

NEVER Text and Drive!

Like Comment Share

Colorado State Patrol Follow

886 37 Comments 557 Shares



It has officially begun!

Like Comment Share

Colorado State Patrol Follow

987 36 Comments 428 Shares





Trooper Tips

By Trooper Gary Cutler

“I’m sorry, what was that? I was driving distracted.”

“After all of these years, I’m surprised, I’m still surprised.” I hear myself saying this more and more. After reading this you’ll understand why.

I’m often approached by people who want to discuss driving problems they have personally observed. The biggest complaint by far is the topic of distracted driving. Distracted driving is not just the use of cell phones, but it will be the focus for this discussion.

Law enforcement has termed distracted driving as the new DUI. It is more prevalent than anything I have ever seen in my career. It used to be just the kids looking at their phones, whether it was texting, Facebook, Instagram, or movies; now I see it with all age groups.

Law enforcement has been very vocal about the dangers of using your phone while driving. But we can always use help. So one theme you will see with my articles is the power you have to help with the message. Talk to others; let them know you are as tired of seeing this as much as cops are tired of it. Let them know how dangerous it is and what the consequences will be which includes serious injury crashes and in some cases, death.

Parents are the first line of defense and need to lead by example and can be achieved by never driving distracted. Also have a talk with your young driver about distractions and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family be held accountable to distraction-free driving.

I suggest you put the phones in your car’s back seat, in the glove box, even in the trunk. You should do whatever it takes to reduce the urge of picking up the phone while driving.

Some believe it’s okay to look at their phone if they only do it at a stop light; it’s not. The times I see people do that they are there much longer than the red light lasted. I watched one gentleman looking at his phone for close to 20 seconds after the light was green. Fortunately, there weren’t any other cars behind him at the time, because he wouldn’t have known. The scary part of that is someone driving could have come up behind and hit him because he needed to see the sports scores right then. Besides the scores he also got a ticket that day.

If you have to use the phone whether to talk to someone, or see what someone is doing on Facebook, you can pull onto the shoulder, or better yet exit the roadway. You’ll have a better chance of being around to tell friends and family what you saw when you’re not in a hospital bed.

Think about this, if you are so busy looking at your phone you don’t even see the State Trooper next to you watching you do it, your focus is not where it needs to be...driving. I see it every day I patrol the road. Please don’t be that person.

So please use your phones where they are safe and won’t cause a crash. It also reduces road rage.

As always, safe travels!



THANK YOU!

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