



City of Kerrville
701 Main Street
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(830) 257-8000
www.kerrvilletx.gov

PRESS RELEASE

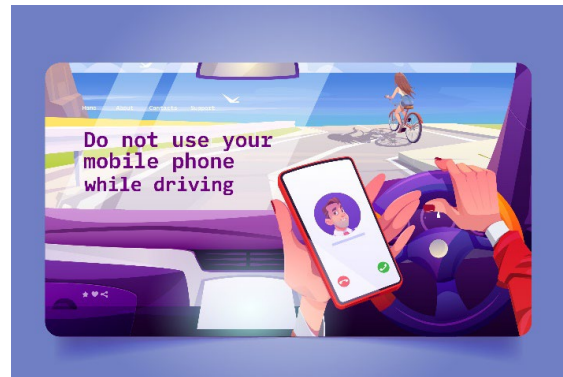
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stuart Cunyus, Public Information Officer
(830) 258-1116
stuart.cunyus@kerrvilletx.gov

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Kerrville, Texas (April 15, 2024) – The month of April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The Kerrville Municipal Court would like to share information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with area drivers about the dangerous behavior.

What Is Distracted Driving? Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your



phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, or fiddling with the stereo or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of driving safely.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed. You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention.

Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing. Distracted driving claimed 3,308 lives in 2022 and injured nearly 290,000 people. Almost 20 percent of those killed in distracted driving-related crashes were people outside the vehicle - pedestrians, cyclists, and others on the road.

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving. Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents first have to lead by example - by never driving distracted - as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving.

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving.

If you feel strongly about distracted driving, be a voice in your community by supporting local laws and speaking out at community meetings.

We all have the power to prevent distracted driving. When you're behind the wheel, the most important thing is the task in front of you - not a text, call, post, picture, music, other passengers, or anything else that takes your mind and eyes off the road.

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