



Community & Resident Safety

Balfour Beatty
Communities

Distractive Driving Awareness

More workers are killed every year in motor vehicle crashes caused by distracted driving than by any other cause.

What is distracted driving? Distraction.gov defines distracted driving as any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. Distractions may include: talking or texting on a cell phone, personal grooming, and eating or drinking. More than 16% of fatal crashes and 20% of injury crashes involved a distracted driver. Reaction times are greatly affected by distracted driving.

Sending or receiving a text message takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. That's the equivalent of driving the length of a football field blindly at 55 miles per hour! As a result of the dangers of distracted driving, 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam ban text messaging while operating a vehicle. Nine states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands have gone so far as banning all drivers from using hand-held cellular devices while operating a vehicle.

Distracted Driving Guidelines:

- Don't answer calls while on the road.
- Plan long trips to include stops so you can safely return calls and email.
- Research your state and base driving regulations and associated fines.

Distraction is a root cause for many accidents. Our neighborhood streets are a minefield of hazards, from plant debris and bikes to children and pets. Be aware, not distracted.

Sources: OSHA publication 2415-02N-11, NHTSA, Distraction.gov)