

Ashlyn
Smith

Distracted Driving

Truck drivers are very important to our economy, because they distribute goods around

the country. For this reason, we appreciate them very much and try our hardest to keep them safe

on the dangerous roads. I appreciate them even more, because my grandpa is a truck driver and I

want him to stay safe. Distracted driving is a very big problem in the world today. These

distractions are the main reason our roads are unsafe. You will see a lot of people on their

phones, texting, talking or reading, while other people are eating or drinking, all while driving.

My grandpa has to put up with these distractions that other people give into everyday. This

makes it very unsafe for all people on the road.

First, let's focus on why texting/reading is a problem while driving. It is a problem

because your eyes are not focused on the road. When texting, you have to log into your phone,

(Some password protected), find the texting app and click on it, and then write your message.

Through this, there is an average of 4.6 seconds your eyes are off the road, possibly longer. In

those seconds, anything could happen. Studies show that if you are texting while driving you will

be 23 times more likely to crash. We can prevent this by using new technology like bluetooth in

cars. Reading is also a problem, it may even keep your eyes away from the road longer than if

you were texting. You may think that you need to read a map to get directions but there are much safer ways to navigate when driving. When trying to find directions to somewhere, the safe way

to do it would be to have one of the passengers read you the map and give you directions or use a

GPS.

Another issue is calling people while driving. Many people have to call work, home, or a business for a number of reasons. While calling someone, you have to find their phone number, (whether looking on the internet for it or scrolling through your contacts.) Afterwards, you will

be more focused on what the person is saying than you would be focusing on the road. There are

also a number of problems that could go on while talking to this person, like accidentally muting

them, no service, etc. Any of these problems will make you look at your phone, and while doing this, there are many things that could go wrong, and you wouldn't realize it until it is too late.

As you can see, driving and calling at the same time is an issue as well. We can prevent this by

using new technology like the voice activated calling now installed in many cars.

Next, we are going to see what makes drinking/eating a problem while driving. Let's say

you were driving, and got hungry. You stop at a fast food restaurant, and order some food and a drink. Once you get your things, you start out on the road. Before you can eat your meal, you

have to locate the bag. In order to do that, you will have to take your eyes off the road. After

you

have found your bag and pulled your food out you will have to then unwrap it which you have to

first, take your eyes off the road to see, and second, take your hands off the steering wheel. Then

you have to eat the food which could cause an issue in itself. No hands on the wheel or eyes on

the road will cause huge problems. This is why we should not eat or drink while driving on the

road.

Now that we know what distracted driving is, knowing the outcomes of these distractions

can make us more aware of how unsafe and dangerous it is right? Well many things can happen.

One, you are risking your life. If you were doing any of these things while driving, you could get

too close to the side of the road and run into the railings, or off the road. If that ramp was next to a body of water, you could easily fall into that as well. But you aren't just putting your life in

danger. You are putting many other people's lives in danger too. These are only a few examples

of what could happen. You can see that this happens often, because in one day, 9 people are

killed and about 1000 are hurt by distracted driving in the U.S. Now, If you are very fortunate

after one of these accidents, the least that will happen is your equipment will be very damaged,

causing you to lose a lot. As you can see, there are many bad outcomes in distracted driving.

In conclusion, distracted driving is a big problem, because it puts everyone on the road in

danger. This happens when people are eating and drinking or using any form of technology including texting or calling while on the road. It has many consequences, including deaths or injuries of you and others. Hopefully all of us can do our part to prevent distracted driving for the safety of our loved and appreciated truck drivers.

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