



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH *Drivers Are Urged To Keep Their Eyes Forward And Hands On The Wheel*

Tracy, California – April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the Tracy Police Department wants to remind drivers to stay focused, keep their eyes forward and hands on the wheel. Distractions like checking a phone, using the in-dash touchscreen or car phone app, adjusting the radio, or eating can have devastating consequences.

Distracted driving puts everyone on the road at risk. When drivers take their eyes off the road, even for a few seconds, lives can change forever. Remember that safety starts with each of us. Put the phone down, limit distractions, and help keep everyone safe on their way home.

According to the [2025 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey](#), nearly 71.4% of drivers surveyed said that distracted driving, caused by texting or checking a phone, was their biggest safety concern. In 2023, there were [158 people killed](#) in distracted driving crashes in California, a 6.8 percent increase from the previous year. As officers may not always be able to determine if distraction was a factor in a crash, the numbers are likely underreported.

Tracy PD will be actively looking for drivers throughout the month who are in violation of the state's hands-free cell phone law.

Current law prohibits drivers from holding phones or electronic devices while driving, including at red lights. Activities like talking, texting, or using apps are not allowed. Violations can lead to fines, and a second offense within 36 months adds a point to your record.

Follow these simple steps to stay focused and protect everyone on the road:

- **Put your phone away:** Silence notifications and store your phone where you can't reach it while driving.
- **Plan ahead:** Set your GPS, adjust mirrors, and finish any tasks before you start driving.
- **Keep both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road:** Avoid eating, grooming, or adjusting controls while driving.
- **Be a role model:** Show your passengers, especially young drivers, that focused driving is the norm.
- **Speak up:** If you're a passenger and see the driver distracted, kindly remind them to stay focused.
- **Pull over if necessary:** If something urgent comes up, stop and park in a safe place before responding.

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