

# Be Responsible and Prevent Tragedies Caused by Distracted Driving



Turn off electronic devices and put them out of reach before starting to drive.

Never put your phone in your hat or headscarf to talk while driving.

Be a good role model for other drivers. When you are a passenger offer to make a call or text for the driver, so his or her full attention stays on driving safely. Talk with children about responsible driving.

Always wear seat belts and put children in safety seats to keep you safe from unsafe drivers.

All pedestrians and bicyclists should focus on their surroundings and not use electronic devices. Source: Retrieved 9/6/18 <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/us-dot-and-nhtsa-kick-5th-annual-u-drive-u-text-u-pay-campaign>

## If You Text While You're Behind The Wheel, You're 20 Times More Likely To Be Involved In A Crash Than A Non-Distracted Driver.

- 3450 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers in 2016.
- 562 pedestrians, bicyclists, and others were killed in distraction-affected crashes, in 2016
- 70% of distracted drivers in fatal crashes were male, as compared to 74 percent of drivers in all fatal crashes.
- hand-held cell phone use while driving is highest among 15-29 year old drivers.
- female drivers with a cell phone have been more likely to be involved in fatal distracted-driving crashes as compared to male drivers every year since 2012
- 9% of all drivers 15-19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted driving.

(Sources: Retrieved 9/6/18 <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/us-dot-and-nhtsa-kick-5th-annual-u-drive-u-text-u-pay-campaign>)

## Legal Sanctions Can Range From Paying Fines And Surcharges To Serious Immigration Consequences.

It is against the law to use a hand-held mobile telephone or portable electronic device while you drive. Illegal activity includes holding a portable electronic device and talking on a handheld mobile telephone composing, sending, reading, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving, or retrieving electronic data such as e-mail, text messages, or webpages taking, viewing, or transmitting images or playing games.

Exceptions to the law, meaning, it is legal to: Call 911 or contact medical, fire or police personnel about an emergency. For a driver to use a hands-free mobile telephone, which allows the user to communicate without the use of either hand. To use a handheld electronic device that is affixed to a vehicle surface. To use a GPS device that is attached to the vehicle.

You can receive a traffic ticket and be subject to a fine and surcharge for using a portable electronic device while you drive. Conviction of cell phone use, portable electronic device use or a texting violation will also result in points being added to your DMV driving record. If you receive 11 points in an 18 month period, your driver license may be suspended. To learn more, see [About the NYS Driver Point System](http://dmv.ny.gov/tickets/about-nys-driver-point-system), <http://dmv.ny.gov/tickets/about-nys-driver-point-system>.