



Distracted Driving...

from the enforcement perspective.







Current Laws

- 169.14 SPEED LIMITS, ZONES; RADAR.

Subdivision 1. Duty to drive with due care.

No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions. **Every driver is responsible for becoming and remaining aware of the actual and potential hazards then existing on the highway and must use due care in operating a vehicle.** In every event speed shall be so restricted as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

Current Laws

- 169.18 DRIVING RULES

Subd. 8. Following vehicle too closely.

(a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the conditions of the highway.

Current Laws

- 169.13 RECKLESS OR CARELESS DRIVING.

Subdivision 1.Reckless driving.

(a) Any person who drives any vehicle in such a manner as to indicate either a willful or a wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving and such reckless driving is a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2.Careless driving.

Any person who **operates** or halts any vehicle upon any street or highway **carelessly** or heedlessly **in disregard of the rights of others**, or in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any property or any person, including the driver or passengers of the vehicle, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Current Laws

- 169.475 USE OF WIRELESS COMM. DEVICE.

Subd. 2. Prohibition on use.

No person may operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device to compose, read, or send an electronic message, when the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

Subd. 3. Exceptions.

This section does not apply if a wireless communications device is used:

(1) solely in a voice-activated or other hands-free mode; (2) for making a cellular phone call; (3) for obtaining emergency assistance to (i) report a traffic accident, medical emergency, or serious traffic hazard, or (ii) prevent a crime about to be committed; (4) in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety is in immediate danger; or (5) in an authorized emergency vehicle while in the performance of official duties.

Current Laws

- 171.055 PROVISIONAL LICENSE.

Subd. 2. Use of provisional license.

(a) A provisional license holder may not operate a vehicle while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular or wireless telephone, whether handheld or hands free, when the vehicle is in motion. The provisional license holder may assert as an affirmative defense that the violation was made for the sole purpose of obtaining emergency assistance to prevent a crime about to be committed, or in the reasonable belief that a person's life or safety was in danger. Violation of this paragraph is a petty misdemeanor subject to section 169.89, subdivision 2.

Current Laws

- 609.21 CRIMINAL VEHICULAR HOMICIDE AND INJURY.

Subdivision 1. Criminal vehicular homicide or operation;

A person is guilty of criminal vehicular homicide or operation and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 1a, if the person causes injury to or the death of another as a result of operating a motor vehicle:

(1) in a **grossly negligent manner;**

Emerging Trends

- GPS systems/Navigation systems
- Collision avoidance systems
- Driver fatigue
- Advertising on vehicles
- iPods
- Smartphones
- Commute times
- Efficiency demands
- Bad habits

Ford's 'Do Not Disturb' button helps drivers focus



2011 Ford vehicles equipped with MyFord and MyLincoln Touch will feature a "Do Not Disturb" button for Bluetooth-synched phones.

(Credit: Ford)

As cars become more connected, you may need a little help to *not* use all the features at your fingertips.

The latest feature for Ford's SYNC in-car communications and entertainment system is the "Do Not Disturb" button, which is aimed at keeping at bay the temptation to text and talk while driving. On 2011 models equipped with MyFord or MyLincoln Touch, the button enables drivers to set the level of connectivity and communications available to them while they're in the vehicle.

Volvo Emergency Brake System Epic Fail - thespo...



A spokesperson for Volvo said the crash had been caused by human error and not a problem with the collision avoidance system.



In Minnesota....

Human Contributing Factors (2009 single ~ multiple vehicle crashes)

- Illegal/Unsafe Speed = 25.1% ~ 7.5%
- Driver Inattention/Distraction = 12.9% ~ 22.6%
- Driver Inexperience = 4.9% ~ 1.9%
- Following Too Closely = .4% ~ 12.1%
- Failure to Yield Right of Way = .2% ~ 19.2%



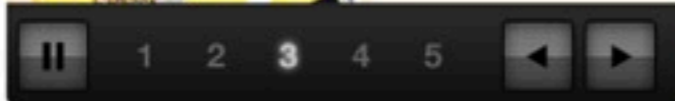
National "No Phone Zone Day"

A working coalition of transportation safety organizations came together as part of "No Phone Zone Day" activities and viewing rallies across the country on April 30th.

Secretary Ray LaHood was interviewed by Gayle King live at the Newseum at the Washington D.C. Event

Click [here](#) to read the press release

Click [here](#) to watch Secretary LaHood's interview



Distracted Driving 00:30

Air Date: 12.23.09 - [Download Script](#)

Distracted Driving

At the U.S. Department of Transportation, we heard America's call to end the dangerous practice of distracted driving on our nation's roadways. Distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice and we will not rest until we stop it.

We are leading the effort but you are the key to preventing distracted driving. The message is simple – Put it down!

We will work across the spectrum with private and public entities as well as advocacy groups to tackle distracted driving, and, we will lead by example. We have taken first steps -- The President's Executive Order has established a new way to approach driving – by putting your device down and paying attention to the task at hand.

Internally, the department's agencies are already working together to share knowledge and promote a greater understanding of the issue, and identify additional strategies to end distracted driving. Check back to this site often so you can stay abreast of our progress and to view the latest updates and information.

Distracted Driving News

CAMPAIGN TOOLS



STATS & FACTS



STATE LAWS



FAQ



RESEARCH



FOR MEDIA



WHAT'S GOING ON AT DOT?

