

DISTRACTED DRIVING ; the 3 second risk that can kill

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE conducted a survey in November 2006, and suggested that distracted driving is a national pastime. Of 1200 respondents ages 18 - 60, 73% admitted to using the cell phone while driving, and 68% plead guilty to eating behind the wheel.

GADGET - OBSESSED teen drivers are perhaps the most distracted.

YOUNG DRIVERS are a major concern. They use cell phones more than adults generally.

DRIVERS with the least amount of experience willingly taking on a high risk.

UPSTATE NEW YORK, five young women killed, records indicate a text message 38 seconds before first 911 call. [Insert local examples]

TYPICAL DISTRACTION last 3 seconds, enough time for a car going 68 mph to travel the length of a football field.

AWARENESS is the key to understanding how one second can change a life forever.[Hanna Grant]

FIVE STATES California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Washington, and Washington D.C. ban hand held cell phone use. 16 more states plus D.C. restrict use by young drivers.

DISTRACTION is not so much the physical act of using the phone, as the process of talking and thinking

STATE RATINGS

Advocates for Highway Safety rated all 50 states based on their adoption of 15 proven highway safety laws in 2006. Ratings were based only on on adoption of the laws, not on enforcement or the number of statewide fatalities.

Florida lands in the yellow caution rating, meaning the state needs improvement because of numerous gaps in the recommended laws.

THE 15 LAWS

These 15 laws have been proven to significantly reduce the number of injuries and deaths on the nation's roads.

- 1. A primary enforcement safety belt law.**
- 2. An all rider motorcycle helmet law.**
- 3. A booster seat provision for kids age 4 to 8 within the child-restraint law.**
- 4. A six-month "holding period" during the learner's permit phase.**
- 5. A minimum of 30-50 hours of supervised driving during the learner"s permit period.**
- 6. A nighttime driving restriction from at least 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. during the probational**

period.

7. A restriction of no more than one non-family teen passenger during the probational stage.

8. A total prohibition on cell phone use by drivers with learner's permits or provisional licenses----- except for 911 purposes.

9. An open container ban.

10. Enhanced penalties against high blood-alcohol-concentration [BAC] drivers.

11. Repeat offender penalties.

12. Mandatory BAC testing for drivers killed in crashes.

13. Same for drivers who survive crashes in which another motorist was killed.

14. State authorization of sobriety checkpoints.

15. Penalties against impaired drivers transporting children.

For more information, visit www.saferoads.org