Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Bans on texting while driving

Washington, D.C. was the first state/territory to ban texting while driving by including it in its initial driver cellphone usage law - effective July 1, 2004.

Washington was the first state to pass a texting-specific ban, which went into effect on January 1, 2003.

In Florida, the law became effective on October 1, 2011. It is a secondary offense with a fine of $30, or if the texting results in crash the driver would be assessed 6 points.

RED THUMB INITIATIVE

The initiative encourages people to paint their thumb nails red as a way to raise awareness for distracted driving month. Every time you see your nail you will remember not to text.

Distracted Driving Citations*

By County in 2016

Since October 2013, when texting while driving was made illegal, Miami-Dade County leads all Florida counties in distracted driving citations every year.

Distracted Driving Crashes

By Types of Distraction in 2016 in Florida

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distracted driving is “driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away such as things like using your cell phone, texting, eating and drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading (including maps), using navigation system, watching a video, adjusting a radio, CD or MP3 player.”

Top 5 Distracted Driver Counties in Florida

By Crashes in 2016

Since 2015, Orange County tops all other counties in Florida in distracted driving crashes. Some of the possible reasons might be tourists, the parks and the size of the metro area.

By Fatalities in 2016

For the last 4 years Miami-Dade, Hillsborough and Orange counties have been in the top 5 counties in Florida for fatalities in distracted driving crashes.

Why It Matters

"Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed." - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

In 2015, there were 3,477 deaths by distracted driving nationally.

Sources: