



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joyce Blaschke / (831) 420-5844 / jblaschke@cityofsantacruz.com

Give the Phone a “Break”: April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Santa Cruz, Calif. – April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the Santa Cruz Police Department encourages drivers to give the phone a break and focus on the road.

Throughout the month of April Santa Cruz Police Department will have additional officers on patrol specifically looking for drivers who violate the state's hands-free cell phone law.

“When you are driving, give the phone a rest,” Lieutenant Wes Morey said. “A driver’s number one focus should be on the road. Anything that distracts you from the task of driving, especially a phone, puts yourself and others at risk.”

According to the [2020 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey](#), more than 75% of surveyed drivers listed “Distracted Driving because of TEXTING” as their biggest safety concern.

“Not driving distracted is a simple, but significant behavior change,” Lieutenant Morey said. “The goal is to increase compliance with the hands-free cell phone law and keep people safe.”

Under current law, drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or other electronic device while behind the wheel. Drivers under 18 are not allowed to use a phone for any reason, including hands-free.

If you need to make a call or send a text, pull over and park at a safe location. Drivers should silence their phones or put the phone out of reach, such as the glove box or trunk.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement operations are provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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