

**CPD**

E-Watch Community Bulletin

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The Dangers of Distracted Driving

Despite the implementation of state laws regulating the use of cell phones while driving, the statistics for traffic collisions involving distracted driving continue to become more prominent. The Chino Police Department asks you to join the campaign against distracted driving by considering and sharing the information provided below.

Distracted driving doesn't just pertain to cell phone use but involves any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him/her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing. This includes taking your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel or your mind off what you're doing.

In addition to driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol (which is also illegal), examples of distracted driving activities include:

- Using a cell phone (talking and/or texting)
- Eating/drinking
- Grooming (i.e. doing your hair/make-up/shaving)
- Reading
- Using other electronic devices such as GPS, MP3, PDA, radio, TV, etc
- Driving while tired



Research and Statistics:

- Driving while using a cell phone reduced the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37%.
- In 2008 nearly 6,000 people died and more than 500,000 were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.
- Using a cell phone while driving (hands free or hand-held), delays a drivers' reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08%.
- The under 20 age group had the highest proportion of distracted drivers in fatal crashes (16%).

Please remember that hands-free cell phone use is not only required by the law, it's a safe practice that should be followed by everyone as it can save lives (including your own).

Courtesy of: www.distraction.gov

Should You Be Concerned That Your Teen is Sexting?

What Is Sexting?

Sexting is sending sexually explicit messages via cell phone or instant messenger. As technology has advanced and cell phones have the capability to record and send photos and video, the practice of sending suggestive and explicit pictures has increased, especially among teens. Recent studies suggest that 20% of teens have shared nude or semi-nude pictures of themselves either via text or by posting online.

Why is Sexting a Problem?

With the ease of information sharing via phone and internet, photos and video can quickly be spread to hundreds, even thousands of people in a matter of minutes. Once digital images are out there, especially online, you can't "take it back." Additionally, beyond legal ramifications, there are emotional consequences that the teens must face which can result in mental health and social issues.

Sexting Laws

Sexting can be illegal under both state and federal law. It falls under the creation, distribution and possession of child pornography and is a felony offense. A felony conviction can carry up to a three-year sentence, a fine of \$2,500 and lifetime registration as a sex offender. Officials investigating a recent southern California sexting case involving four teen suspects say that sexting is the number one problem facing their high schools today.