2012 REPORT
Distracted Driving in Construction Zones
The Law Enforcement Perspective
A National Epidemic

Nearly 15 people die each day in the United States in crashes that involve distracted driving, and another 1,200 people are injured*

In 2009, more than 5,400 people were killed and an additional 448,000 were injured in crashes that were reported to involve driving while distracted. Among those killed or injured in these crashes, nearly 1,000 deaths and 24,000 injuries included cell phone use as the major distraction*

40 percent of drivers report using a cellular phone while driving*

*http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsdistracteddriving/
The Commonwealth of Virginia is in the middle of an unprecedented transportation infrastructure upgrade.

With billions of dollars fueling construction, almost every driver encounters a work zone on a daily basis.

Distracted driving is always bad. Distracted driving in work zones is exceptionally dangerous.
Law enforcement officers serve in the many construction work zones throughout the Commonwealth.

For National Work Zone Awareness Week, Transurban-Fluor and AAA Mid-Atlantic surveyed 402 law enforcement officers in Northern Virginia to understand the impact of distracted driving in work zones.
Law enforcement officers identify texting as the most dangerous behavior in a work zone.

Which of the following do you think is the most dangerous driver behaviors when driving in construction work zones?

- Texting: 32%
- Not Obeying Traffic Patterns: 15%
- Aggressive Driving: 14%
- Talking on the Cell Phone: 14%
- Speeding: 13%
- Distracted Driving Not on Cell Phone: 9%
Drivers Not Deterred

Officers estimate that 40%+ of drivers operating their vehicles in a work zone are using a cellular phone.
Net Result: More Incidents

Based on your experiences, has the number of traffic crashes and/or incidents you have responded to in construction zones been increasing or decreasing since you joined the police force?

- 78% Increasing
- 22% Decreasing
Cell Phones Cause Crashes

Cell phone usage is the primary cause of crashes responded to by local police officers.

Which, if any, of the following have been the primary or main causes of the traffic crashes and/or incidents, which you have responded to, in construction zones?

- Cell Phone Use: 34%
- Distracted Driving Not Using Cell Phone: 22%
- Aggressive Driving: 15%
- Speeding: 13%
79 percent of law enforcement officers surveyed say that if cell phone use was eliminated while driving, it would dramatically reduce the number of crashes they respond to.
A Special Thank You

We recognize the law enforcement officers of Northern Virginia for their strong efforts in keeping drivers and workers safe in construction zones.
The Simple Key to Safety

For More Information:
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