

# F or Y our D riving



## Distracted Drivers you're At-Risk!

At any given moment of the day, about 660,000 Americans are using a cell phone or some other type electronic device while driving, a new government survey indicates. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says that number has held steady since 2010, despite warnings that distraction leads to crashes, injuries, and even death. According to separate NHTSA data, more than 3,300 people were killed in 2011 and 387,000 were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.

"Distracted driving is a serious and deadly epidemic on America's roadways," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "There is no way to text and drive safely. Powering down your cell phone when you're behind the wheel can save lives – maybe even your own." To prevent distracted driving, the Department of Transportation recommends that drivers:

- Turn off electronic devices and put them out of reach before starting to drive.
- Talk with your teens about responsible driving.
- Speak up when you are a passenger and your driver uses an electronic device while driving. Offer to make the call for the driver, so his or her full attention stays on the driving task.
- The use of a hand-held cell phone is prohibited when operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). So lead by example and be a role model for others to follow.

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