## Georgia Struck-By Alliance presents

# Highway Work Zone Safety Stand Down



16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Work Zone Awareness Week March 23 – 27, 2015

# Brought to you GEORGIA STRUCK-BY ALLIANCE PARTICIPANTS









































- We are the faces of distracted driving.
- We are mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers, spouses and friends to those who have died because people chose to take part in phone calls or text messages while driving.

Linda Doyle, Oklahoma City, OK



Xzavier Davis-Bilbo, Milwaukee, WI



Alex Brown, Wellman, TX



John Sligting, Round Lake Beach, IL



Ashley Johnson, Asheville, NC





## Texting While Driving – defined



- The act of composing, sending, reading text messages, email or making other similar use of the web on a mobile device while operating a motor vehicle.
- Leads to increased distraction behind the wheel.

#### DISTRACTED DRIVING – defined:



- A replacement phrase for the more popular terms "<u>texting while driving</u>" and "talking while driving."
- Occurs when a driver has something other than <u>driving</u> on their mind.
- Driving becomes subsequent in importance to another activity that is happening inside the car, truck or cycle while the <u>vehicle</u> is in motion.

### Three main types of distraction:

- Visual taking your eyes off the road
- Manual taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive taking your mind off what you are doing

Talking on cell phones and texting behind the wheel both lead to distraction. Driver inattention is the <u>leading cause</u> of accidents.

# Beware of Distracted Drivers – Stay vigilant and watch for these signs:

- Swerving
- Taking extreme wide turns
- Driving too slowly
- Following too closely
- Braking erratically

### Crashes Caused by Distracted Drivers

- A crash occurred when a driver operating a trolley car was text messaging his girlfriend injuring 46 people costing an estimated \$9.6 million.
- Texting was blamed in a train collision which killed 25 passengers.
   The engineer of the train had sent 45 text messages while operating the train.

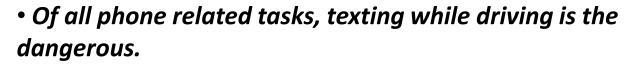
 A young girl was killed in an accident allegedly caused by a truck driver who crashed into 10 cars when he was sending a text message while driving.

#### **2011 Distracted Driving Statistics**

#### A poll of more than 2,800 American adults revealed that:

- ➤ A large percentage of people said they know distracted driving is dangerous, <u>but</u> do it anyway
- > Over 1/3 of drivers (37%) have sent or received text messages
- > Forty-one percent of adult drivers have set or changed a GPS system
- > Approximately 86% of drivers often eat or drink
- > Thirty-six percent of adult drivers have read a map
- > One in five have combed or styled their hair
- > Approximately 14% have put on makeup at least once
- > About 13% have surfed the Internet
- > Younger drivers were more likely to engage in distracted driving
- ➤ Men were more likely to drive while drowsy, after drinking, reach a map, use a GPS and use the Internet

## The Truth about Texting while Driving:





- Teens are four (4) times more likely to get into car crashes or near crash events directly related to talking or texting.
- A car driver dialing a cell phone is 2.8 times and a truck driver is 5.9 times more likely to get into a crash.
- A driver reaching for a cell phone or other device is 1.4 times more likely to be in a crash.
- A truck driver texting is 23.2 times more likely to get into a crash and 6.7 times more likely when reaching for a phone or other device.
- For every 6 seconds of drive time, a driver sending or receiving a text message spends 4.6 seconds with their eyes off the road making texting the most distracting of all cell phone related tasks.

### **Texting While Driving National Statistics:**

- Approximately 3,000 deaths and nearly 400,000 injuries are caused by distracted drivers every year.
- •While teenagers are texting, they spend about 10 percent of the time outside the driving lane they're supposed to be in .
- •Talking on a cell phone while driving can make a young driver's reaction time as slow as that of a 70-year-old.
- •Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds, which is enough time to travel the length of a football field.

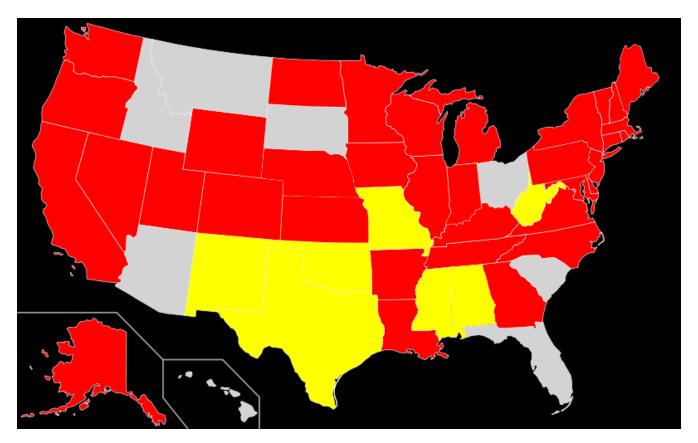




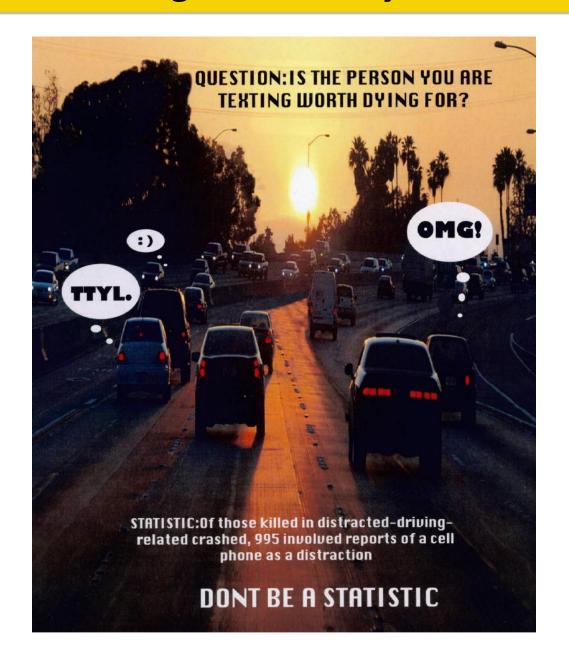
#### Why is distracted driving a problem?

- Distracted driving crashes killed more than 3,000 people and injured nearly 400,000 in 2011. (DOT)
- 18 percent of injury crashes in 2010 involved reports of distracted driving. (NHTSA)
- Of those killed in distracted-driving-related crashes, 408 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction (13% of fatalities in distraction-related crashes). (2010 report from NHTSA)

#### Texting while driving statutes in the United States



Red Yellow Grey **Banned for all drivers Banned for new drivers**No statute



Phones don't get all the blame!

## cn u jst drV n do Ø Ls?

- Smartphones take center stage, but they're not in this alone! Other culprits are:
  - In-car technologies
  - Food and drinks (Dashboard Dining)
  - Children
  - Pets
  - Grooming
  - Smoking
  - Rubbernecking
  - Singing



Year after year, the leading cause of worker fatalities is motor vehicle crashes.

What **YOU** can do:

Work with your employers to:

Lead by example

Declare work vehicles "text-free zones"

FOLLOW COMPANY/EMPLOYER POLICIES
THAT BAN TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

Establish work procedures and rules that do not make it necessary to text while driving in order to carry out job duties







#### **Work Zone Facts**

- In 2011, 3,331 people were killed on U.S. roadways and an estimated additional 387,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes that were reported to have involved distracted driving (FARS and GES).
- Of those people killed in distracted-driving-related crashes in 2010, 408 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction (13% of fatalities in distraction-related crashes).
- In 2011, 32,367 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United
   States the lowest number of fatalities since 1949 (30,246 fatalities in 1949).
- Approximately 2.22 million people were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2011, compared to 2.24 million in 2010 according to NHTSA's National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) & General Estimates System (GES).

#### **Work Zone Facts**

- ½ of fatal work zone crashes occur during the day; most on weekdays and most in summer and fall.
- More than 20% of the National Highway System is under construction during peak season.
- An estimate 12 billion vehicles travel a year through active work zones along roadways.
- For thousands of utility and highway work zone employees, the heavily traveled roadways and work zones are their offices.

For additional information on distracted driving, these sites are available:

- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: <u>www.cdc.gov/niosh</u>
- National Safety Council: <u>www.nsc.org</u>
- U.S. Department of Transportation: <u>www.dot.gov</u>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <u>www.nhtsa.dot.gov</u>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration: <u>www.osha.gov</u>
- Focus Driven: <u>www.focusdriven.org</u>