



STATE SAFETY OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110



SAFETY MESSAGE 18-06

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Inattention or distracted driving...no matter what you call it, can result in tragedy. According to the Army, Class A mishap rates fell 10% over the past five years. A Class A mishap is an accident resulting in a fatality, permanent total disability or more than 2 million dollars of damage to equipment/property. The disturbing trend is that in FY17 the off-duty Class A mishaps increased by 9%. Private Motor Vehicle (PMV) mishaps accounted for the majority of the Class A mishaps. Those statistics include motorcycles as well as automobiles.

The National Safety Council provides many tools to help combat distracted driving accidents. They have training materials, on-line courses, and even a [webinar](#) to promote safe-driving practices. This information can be found on the NSC's website, at the link below:

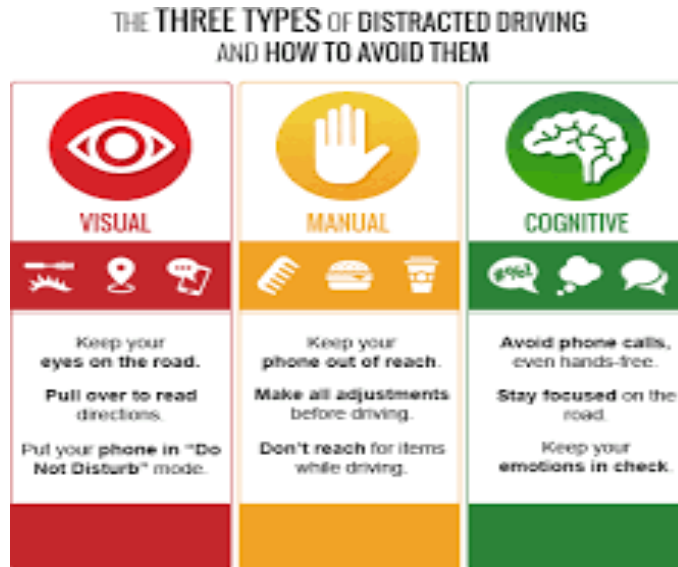
<https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/get-involved/distracted-driving-awareness-month>

Here are some general cell-phone statistics:

- The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.
- Nearly 390,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving.
- 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.
- Texting while driving is 6x more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk.
- Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds. Traveling at 55 mph, that's enough time to travel the length of a football field.
- Texting while driving causes a 400% increase in time spent with eyes off the road.
- Of all cell phone related tasks, texting is by far the most dangerous activity.
- 94% of drivers support a ban on texting while driving.
- 74% of drivers support a ban on hand-held cell phone use.

Leaders must ensure they are discussing these dangerous activities with their Soldiers. Operators of Army Motor Vehicles (AMV) are susceptible to the dangers listed

above while on-duty. Any activity that takes your attention off driving is hazardous and may result in a Class A mishap.



To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

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