

Phone Apps to Control Distracted Driving

By Basil Housewright

A distracted driver is a more dangerous driver. The National Safety Council in 2013 estimated that over 300,000 automobile crashes involved someone texting while driving. Those texting while driving an automobile are over 20% more likely to be involved in an accident. Nearly every state has made texting while driving illegal, but the problem still exists and especially among the youngest drivers.

For most all auto insurance carriers the frequency and severity of auto accidents have increased sharply. A major contributor to this is distracted driving. Don't be distracted. Put your cell phone away when you're driving. The number of people using their phones while driving is increasing tremendously and is causing many very serious accidents. Only two seconds of distraction time doubles the chances of an automobile accident. If you need to use your phone first pull over and park safely out of the flow of traffic.

Another effective solution is let a cell phone App reduce your texting while driving problem. You can choose the degree that an App controls your texting usage while driving, from blocking usage of your cell phone entirely while driving to making the buttons larger for easier pressing for non-replying or non-answering. Two cell phone App options are below.

Focus

If you want to teach yourself to stop texting so much while driving, Focus could be your App answer. Focus doesn't block texting, it reminds you that you should not be texting now and the reminding becomes more confrontational the more you text while driving.

Drive First

You can set three choices to work on your cell phone while driving such as music, mapping and traffic reports. While your cell phone will block all incoming calls, you can set up a few important people that won't be blocked, such as a spouse or employer. It will automatically reply to texts while you're driving.

The Thanksgiving travel period is defined as the day before Thanksgiving through the Sunday after Thanksgiving. With an expected 40 million+ Americans driving during part of that period this year. There are typically several hundred traffic related deaths during the Thanksgiving holiday period so stay safe if you are traveling.

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