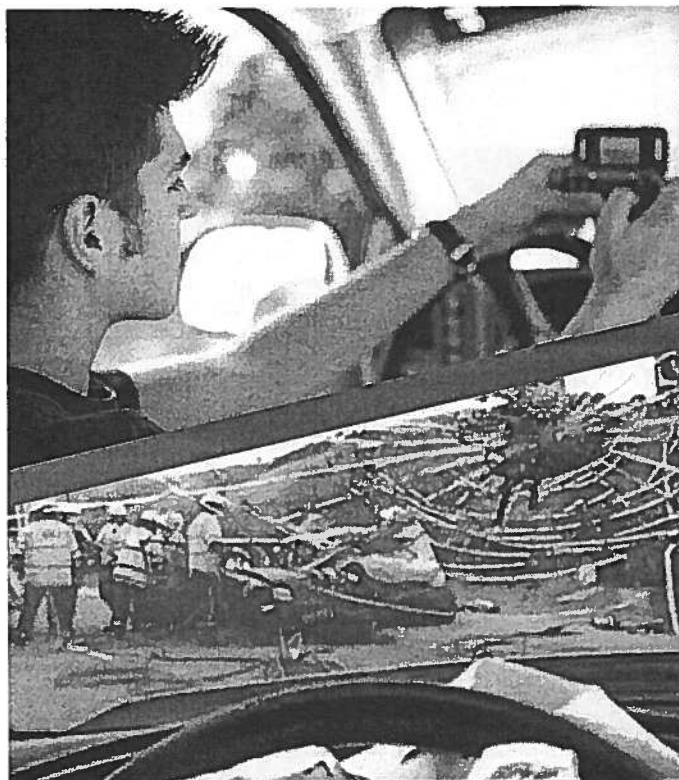


DISTRACTED DRIVING SHATTERS LIVES



IN A FLASH, YOU CAN LOSE IT ALL.

An action plan for
parents and
educators, from
the U.S. Department
of Transportation and
Consumer Reports



Three lives lost

Sarah Edwards, 18,
North Carolina

Sarah was reading a text message when her car crossed the center line of a two-lane highway and ran into the rear wheels of a loaded logging truck. She died instantly.



Angelina Bandino, 13,
California

Angelina was walking along a road near her home when she was struck and killed by an 18-year-old driver in a pickup truck who was typing a text message.



Caleb Sorohan, 18,
Georgia

Caleb had been texting with his friend while driving before his car veered into the opposing lane and collided head-on with a truck.



16% of all teen drivers involved in fatal crashes were distracted while driving. Help prevent the loss of more lives.

A problem of focus

Teenagers are dying and being injured every day because too many drivers are focusing on using a handheld phone instead of on the road. That's why the U.S. Department of Transportation and Consumer Reports have joined together to help parents and educators raise awareness of this danger and reduce the tragedies. Here are the facts:

- Motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Mile for mile, they are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. And one in three teens who text say they have done so while driving.
- In 2009, almost 5,500 people were killed and almost a half million were injured in accidents related to distracted driving. That's 16 percent of all fatal crashes and 20 percent of all injury crashes for that year. And almost one in five of those deaths involved reports of a cell phone.
- A Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study revealed that physically dialing a phone while driving increases the risk of a crash as much as six times. Texting is riskier still, increasing the collision risk by 23 times.
- A University of Utah study found that the reaction time of a teen driving and talking on a cell phone is the same as that of a 70-year-old driver who's not using a phone.