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Top 4 Misconceptions About Distracted Driving

Each day in the U.S., approximately nine people are killed and more than 1,000 are injured in crashes involving a distracted driver, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is of particular concern for local governments who keep fleets of municipal vehicles.

Check out four top misconceptions about distracted driving:

1) I'm using hands-free tech, so I'm not distracted.

False. A study by AAA found dialing, changing music or sending a text using voice commands can cause mental distractions for as long as 27 seconds.

2) It only takes a few seconds to read a text, so there's really no harm.

False. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

3) Distracted driving is safer than drinking and driving.

False. Drivers using cell phones had slower reaction times than drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08, or the legal limit in all 50 states, according to a University of Utah study.

4) Cell phone use is the leading cause of distracted driving accidents.

False. More than half of distracted driving accidents were caused by conversations with passengers, according to federal data.

Learn more

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