



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

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NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date and Time: April is Distracted Driver Awareness Month
Location: Nationally Recognized
Type of Crimes/Incident: Citations, collisions, and even death can be a result of distracted driving.

Summary:

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office will be ramping up traffic enforcement efforts during the month of April to educate drivers and prevent distracted driving related collisions. Distracted driving offenses are considered moving violations and can result in a point on your driving record, increased insurance fees, expensive court costs, collisions, and even death.

It's no secret that texting and driving is a safety problem. As car accident statistics continue to roll in, this problem becomes more apparent. Thousands of people have died or had their lives forever changed because of distracted drivers using their cell phones behind the wheel. Texting and driving absorbs a driver's visual, manual, and cognitive attention – creating the deadliest type of distraction on the road.

- 14% of distracted driving deaths were attributed specifically to cell phone use as opposed to other forms of distracted driving.
- 4,637 people died in car crashes in 2018 due to cell phone use.
- Including quality-of-life costs, these crashes were responsible for \$129 billion — or 15%— of the overall societal damage caused by motor vehicle crashes (statistic provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

“Many people say they can multitask, but in reality, your driving and everyone's safety deserves your full attention.” -Sheriff Carlos G. Bolanos

Do your part to keep the roadways safe, and remain focused on your driving!

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