

DRIVING BEST PRACTICES

DISTRACTED DRIVING OVERVIEW

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), distracted driving refers to any activity that may divert a motorist's attention from the road. Three main types of distractions can interfere with drivers' attentiveness behind the wheel, including:

1. **Visual Distractions** — These distractions involve motorists taking their eyes off the road. Some examples of visual distractions include reading emails or text messages, focusing on vehicle passengers, looking at maps or navigation systems, and observing nearby activities (e.g., accidents, traffic stops, or roadside attractions) while driving.
2. **Manual Distractions** —Such distractions entail motorists removing their hands from the steering wheel. Key examples of manual distractions include texting, adjusting the radio, programming navigation systems, eating, drinking, or performing personal grooming tasks (e.g., applying makeup) while driving.
3. **Cognitive Distractions** —These distractions stem from motorists taking their minds off driving. Primary examples of cognitive distractions include talking on the phone, conversing with vehicle passengers, or daydreaming while driving.

Regardless of distraction type, distracted driving is a serious safety hazard that contributes to a significant number of accidents on the road.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that more than 2,800 people are killed and 400,000 are injured in crashes involving a distracted driver each year—equating to approximately eight deaths and 1,095 injuries per day.

Considering these findings, it's crucial to take steps to prevent distracted driving.



DISTRACTED DRIVING PREVENTION TIPS

Whenever you get behind the wheel, keep these distracted driving prevention measures in mind:

- **Put Away Your Phone:** Silence your phone and store it in a location that is out of reach while driving to lower the temptation to check it.
- **Plan Your Trip Before You Leave:** Program your navigation system before hitting the road to get familiar with your journey and feel confident in your route.
- **Do Not Fumble with Your Playlist:** Select a radio station or plug in a predetermined playlist before driving to limit the need for music adjustments.
- **Secure Passengers:** Ensure kids are properly situated in car seats (if needed) with seat belts fastened. Keep pets stationary in the back seat.
- **Avoid Multi-Tasking:** Never complete additional tasks - such as eating or personal grooming - behind the wheel.
- **Stay Focused:** Concentrate your mind on the road by keeping distracting conversations to a minimum and looking straight ahead.

MSI DRIVING RESOURCES

- [MSI LIVE](#)
 - Driving Safety Awareness Class
 - Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO): Fire, Police, and EMS
 - Coaching Maintenance Vehicle Operator (CMVO)
 - Coaching the School Bus Driver
 - Law Enforcement: Below 100
- [MSI NOW](#)
 - Distracted Driving Awareness Training
 - Driving Defensively
 - Driving Safety
 - Driving Safety: The Basics
 - Survival Driving - Emergencies and Natural Disasters
 - Survival Driving - Urban Driving
- [MSI Bulletins](#)
 - Deer Avoiding Vehicle Collisions Best Practices
 - Driving: Buckle Up!
 - Motor Vehicle Record Checks: Non-CDL Drivers' Best Practices
 - Motor Vehicle Record Checks: CDL Drivers' Best Practices
- [MSI Fire & EMS Bulletins](#)
 - Backing Fire Apparatus into the Station Best Practices
 - Blue Light for Volunteer Fire & EMS Best Practices
 - CDL Exception for Fire & EMS
 - Fire Apparatus & Ambulance Driver – Minimum Age
- [MSI Law Enforcement Bulletins](#)
 - Resource Considerations for Reducing Officer–Involved Motor Vehicle Crashes
- [Safety: Emergency Responder Vehicle Education \(S: ERVE\)](#)
- [NJ State 6-Hour Defensive Driving \(valid for insurance discount & point reduction\)](#)

