

“It Can Wait” - Don’t Text and Drive

Valley Ambulance Authority (“VAA”) would like to remind and encourage drivers of all ages “NOT TO TEXT and DRIVE”.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, “distracted driving” played a role in more than 14,000 crashes in Pennsylvania in 2010. These crashes resulted in the tragic deaths of 68 people.

As evidenced by these statistics, distracted drivers can cause tragic accidents which result in serious bodily injury and can be potentially lethal to not only themselves, but also their passengers and other innocent victims.

While a text may seem important at the time, no text is worth your life or that of someone else!

“A text can wait” is a common theme of many anti-texting campaigns.

"Your most important job when behind the wheel is to focus only on driving. Most people would never close their eyes for five seconds while driving, but that's how long you take your eyes off the road, or even longer, every time you send or read a text message," PennDOT Secretary Barry J. Schoch said. "It's not just your own life you're risking; it's the lives and safety of every motorist around you."

The PA Legislature banned “texting while driving” on March 8, 2012 by passing a law which prohibits any driver from using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (IWCD) to send, read or write a text-based communication while his or her vehicle is in motion.

An IWCD is defined as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing or browsing the Internet.

A text-based communication is defined as a text message, instant message, email or other written communication composed or received on an IWCD.

The texting ban does NOT include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle, or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus. However, Valley Ambulance Authority would like to encourage and remind all drivers to not attempt program or type into a GPS, while their vehicle is in motion.

The penalties for conviction of this summary offense is \$50 fine.

According to many experts, texting while driving is probably one of the most dangerous things you can do behind the wheel. Texting while driving is a serious issue and should be as unacceptable as drinking and driving.

Valley Ambulance Authority encourages everyone to spread the word that a “text can wait” to drivers of all ages!

To donate or obtain more information about the life-saving services provided by Valley Ambulance Authority, please call 412-262-2620 or visit VAA’s web site at www.valleyamb.org