

Julie L. Jones
Executive Director

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500
www.flhsmv.gov



Rick Scott
Governor

Pam Bondi
Attorney General

Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer

Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2014

Contact: Communications Office
(850) 617-3102

Keep Your Eyes on the Road, Hands on the Wheel and Mind on Driving

~April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— There were nearly 39,000 crashes in Florida last year in which a driver was driving distracted. Those crashes resulted in 201 deaths and more than 33,000 injuries. Whether it's texting on your cell phone, eating a hamburger between appointments, or tuning in your favorite radio station, any driver who takes their focus off the road for even a second is driving distracted and the end result could be deadly. April is Distracted Driver Awareness Month in Florida and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is working to bring awareness to Floridians about the dangers of distracted driving.

“Anything we can do to drive home the message that distracted driving is dangerous and often deadly is crucial to making our highways safer,” said Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Julie Jones. “Don't Drive Distracted” is a message that is especially important for young, inexperienced drivers under the age of 20 who have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.”

Nationally, more than nine people are killed and more than a thousand other are injured each day in the U.S. as the result of a distracted driver. Texting is one of the major causes of distracted driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that any given daylight moment, there are 660,000 people who are texting and driving. Texting while driving was banned last year in Florida.

The message to all drivers is to keep your eyes on the road, hands on the wheel and mind on driving. To learn more about safe driving behaviors, visit www.flhsmv.gov and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/flhsmv).

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @[FLHSMV](https://twitter.com/FLHSMV) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/flhsmv).

###