

News Release

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Riverside Police Remind Drivers of Distracted Driving Laws

Riverside Police are reminding motorists of two new laws that took effect January 1st. These new laws represent an effort to reduce crashes and save lives by curbing distracted driving on Illinois roadways and school zones.

Research has shown that when motorists text and drive, they are putting themselves and others in serious danger. Also using a cell phone poses a serious distraction and reduces driver performance. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that driver distraction from all sources contributes to 25 percent of all police-reported traffic crashes.

In Illinois it is illegal to send text messages while driving and to talk on a cell phone while driving through a highway construction zone or school zone.

It is also illegal to compose, send or read text messages, instant messages and e-mail on a cell phone or surf the internet while driving. This includes personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers, but does not include global positioning systems (GPS) or navigation systems.

Riverside Police encourages drivers to take simple precautions to make our roads safer by practicing safe driving habits. Don't use a cell phone while driving especially in construction and school zones.