

2015 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Campaign



11.1 MILLION INCIDENCES OF DISTRACTED DRIVING OCCURS EACH DAY IN CONNECTICUT

*April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month – Connecticut Enforces
“U Drive. U Text. U Pay.” Statewide Campaign Crackdown*

NEWINGTON, CT – The Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office, in the midst of its month-long distracted driving crackdown, is today announcing the results of recent research performed by the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHSTA) that found an **estimated 11.1 million** of incidences of distracted driving occurred each day throughout the state of Connecticut.

In total, it is estimated that 9.6% of drivers were either “texting” or talking on a hands free device.

“This number is staggering,” said James P. Redeker, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation. “Texting and driving requires motorists to take their eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, and mind off the task of driving. It creates the proverbial ‘perfect storm’ for a crash.”

Throughout April, the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Highway Safety Office, along with 50 agencies across the state, are participating in the “U DRIVE. U TEXT. U PAY.” campaign by adding special patrols – aimed at catching distracted drivers – especially those on their phones.

Under Connecticut’s cell phone and texting law, violations involve heavy fines, ranging from \$150 for a first offense, \$300 for a second violation, and \$500 for each subsequent violation.

In 2013, 3,154 people were killed and an estimated additional 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. According to a 2014 special article in the New England Journal of Medicine, the risk of a crash or near-crash among novice drivers increased with the performance of many secondary tasks, including texting and dialing cell phones.

For more information about national distracted driving issues, visit www/distraction.gov.