

Texting and Driving Solution

Ding. You look down to the phone in your lap to see a text, and respond. As you unassumingly glance back up to the road, you realize you've run a red light. Crash. A massive Toyota truck comes barreling into your passenger's side, forcing the car to roll and inflate the airbag as the glass shatters. Your head strikes the ground with hard force, and you're gone. All it took was one text. A simple solution to the texting and driving epidemic would be to implement technology into cars that prohibits the driver from using their phone while operating a moving vehicle. Through examining this technology and discussing why other solutions will not work, we can come together to save lives.

Texting and driving can only be stopped by removing the driver's ability to use their phone. In an article titled "Inside Mobile: Using Mobile Technology to Prevent Texting while Driving," Gary Purdy explains that, "obdEdge's cell control use[s] a hardware dongle in the car that communicates with the user's cellphone via Bluetooth. When the phone gets in range of the dongle..., Key2SafeDriving turns off the use of [] texting." The driver is safe from texting and driving once their ability to send messages is revoked by the dongle in the car. There are also apps developing to help solve our problem at hand. M. Kit Delgado, Kathryn J. Wanner, and Catherine McDonald write about these technological innovations in their piece, "Adolescent Cellphone Use While Driving: an Overview of the Literature and Promising Future Directions for Prevention." In regards to smartphone applications, they state, "If traveling over a certain speed threshold, the application can be set to disable the phone unlock screen and block incoming and outgoing messages." Once the GPS in the phone knows the user is moving at a speed that mimics driving, the device is rendered useless until they have stopped. There have been many proposed solutions, but installing a piece of technology to disable the ability to text is the only answer.

All other "solutions" to the texting and driving problem have shown little to no success. In an article titled, "Carriers Respond To Bans On Texting While Driving; The four major wireless operators agree that the practice is dangerous, but not all believe national legislation is the best way to solve the problem" CMP Media LLC says "Fourteen states and the District of Columbia already have laws in place that ban sending SMS messages or e-mails while operating a moving vehicle, but these bans can be difficult to enforce." Even putting laws in place hasn't shown any promising results in trying to end texting and driving. Not even morals and education on the subject can stop texting and driving. From an article in Time Magazine titled "Why People Text And Drive Even When They Know It's Dangerous" Justin Worland states, "A new study [It Can Wait Compulsion Survey by AT&T] surveyed 1,000 drivers and found that 98% of those who text everyday and drive frequently say the practice is dangerous. Still, nearly 75% say they do it anyway." Nearly all drivers are well aware of the dangers of texting and driving; however over half of those people make the conscious decision to risk their lives by texting and driving. If drivers can't tear themselves away from their technology, being distanced from the usability is the only way to end this issue.

Drivers who are texting while operating their vehicle are 23.2 times more likely to crash (Jackson). Don't let yourself become part of the statistic. Help to jump start the safe driving revolution with the use of phone-disabling technology.