



News Release
Ashland Police Department
www.ashlandpolice.us
Douglas A. Goodman, Chief
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The Ashland Police Department Joins Effort to Stop Distracted Driving in Virginia

The Ashland Police Department is joining DRIVE SMART Virginia, the Virginia Highway Safety Office and the Virginia State Police in recognizing April 28th as *Distracted Driving Awareness Day* in Virginia. Distracted driving is a growing problem throughout the country and is recognized as a major cause in many roadway crashes.

Driving while distracted may be described as any activity that takes one's eyes and/or mind off of the task of driving. Common distractions behind the wheel include eating or drinking, personal grooming, cell phone use and reading. Since cell phone use while driving occurs the most frequently, it is one of the most dangerous behaviors. While it is not illegal to talk on a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, it is against the law to text while driving.

"We recognize that people are busier than ever these days, but it is not safe to use your drive time as anything other than drive time. We need to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and encourage people to keep their focus on the road," says Chief Doug Goodman.

A Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study determined that in 8 out of 10 crashes and in 65 percent of near-crashes, a distracted driving action occurred within three seconds of the incident.

Drivers can pledge to drive distraction free at www.drivesmartva.org.

