

# Hanover County Safety & Risk Focus

## Distracted Driving



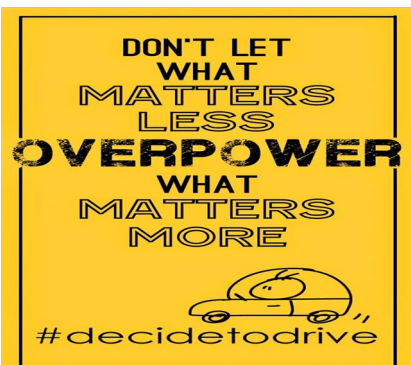
Vehicle crashes are the number one cause of workplace death and distracted driving has become a persistent danger on our roads. In fact, half of drivers feel pressure from employers to drive distracted according to an NSC survey. While staying productive is important, distracted driving should never be considered a business necessity.

Distracted driving is not just a danger to you, it puts everyone around you at risk, including other drivers, pedestrians, road workers and first responders. Follow these steps to avoid distractions and help keep you, your co-workers and everyone else near our roads safe.

- Schedule calls for times when you will not be driving.
- Avoid calling or texting your co-workers or clients when you know they are driving.
- Plan your workday with regular breaks when you can make calls and send texts or emails, so you are not tempted to do so behind the wheel.
- Change your voicemail greeting to something like: “Hi, you’ve reached (insert name), I’m either away from my phone or I’m driving but please leave me a message.”
- When necessary, let co-workers and clients know when you will be driving and when you will be available, so they know when to expect to hear from you.
- If you are in a vehicle with a distracted driver, whether it is a co-worker or a rideshare driver, speak up for your safety and hold each other accountable.
- If you need to check something behind the wheel, always pull over safely first - for professional drivers, this includes dispatching devices and mobile data terminals.
- Set your phone to Do Not Disturb or silence your notifications and store it in the glove box to avoid distractions. Remember, hands-free devices do not make you safer – while they allow for one more hand to be placed on the steering wheel, they do not reduce the distraction to the brain.
- Program your GPS and start your music, podcast, or audiobook while the vehicle is safely parked.
- [Always move over for emergency vehicles & stranded motorists whenever safe to do so.](#)

**The message is a simple one, when you are behind the wheel, your only job is to drive!**

### Safety & Risk Quote of the Month:



### Safety & Risk Resources

Below are some additional resources for review & use on Distracted Driving:

- [Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#)
- [How to set up your Drive \(Video\)](#)
- [Have you ever felt in Danger as a passenger in a car \(Video\)](#)
- [Avoid distracted driving \(Video\)](#)
- [DriveSmart Virginia](#)