



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BEHIND THE STAR
SHERIFF MALCUM J. "JAMIE" PATTON



What is Distracted Driving?

By simple definition Distracted Driving is driving a motor vehicle while engaged in another activity, typically one that involves the use of a cellular telephone or other electronic devices. However, all of us have seen at one time or another where drivers are distracted by other means such as applying make-up, eating food, or changing radio stations. All of these are examples of an action which the driver of vehicle diverts his or her attention away from the roadway. Traffic studies have shown that reading an average text message takes about five seconds, and during those five seconds a vehicle will travel nearly the length of a football field. In 2020, distractive driving was responsible for 9% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes.

Our deputies average taking over 500 vehicle crash reports a year for the motoring public, and through the first quarter alone this year, we are on pace to complete nearly 600 reports. Distracted driving is a contributing factor in many of these crashes. "Law enforcement alone cannot curb distracted driving; however, with your help and support when can prevent and reduce the number of vehicle crashes related to distracted driving." says Sheriff Patton.

How can you help?

- 1) Devote your full attention to driving
- 2) If another activity demands your attention, pull off the road and stop your vehicle in safe place.
- 3) Silence your notifications while driving and don't use other electronics.
- 4) Make adjustments prior to driving – seats, mirrors, GPS, climate controls

"The Mission of our office includes ensuring Union County is a safe place to live, work and visit. Please do your part to keep our roadways safe. Don't Text and Drive." says Sheriff Patton.