



Dangers of Texting

By Michael G. Steelman

You have all seen this on our highways. You're driving behind another car that is going slower than normal, then speeding up, slowing down and weaving, often crossing the center line. You wonder what's wrong with that person in front of you. Have they been drinking? Maybe, but chances are they are texting or otherwise using their cell phone.

I often drive to Chicago, and I see people texting on their cell phones all the time. When I am finally able to get around them, I carefully avoid their vehicle, because the other driver's head is down, and they are texting or reading on their cell phone, not even looking at the road. Terrifying.

Illinois law is clear. You cannot operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device, which includes a hand-held wireless telephone. There are some exceptions to Illinois law, including the use of hands free or voice operated devices, if you are parked on the shoul-

der of a roadway, or you're stopped while traffic is obstructed, and you have your vehicle in neutral or park. You cannot use a wireless telephone when driving in a school speed zone, maintenance zone, or within 500 feet of an emergency scene.

This should all be common sense, but it's not to many drivers.



The National Safety Council has reported that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year, and nearly 390,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving. One out of every four car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.

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Texting

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Texting while driving is six times more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk. If you answer a text and that only takes you 5 seconds, at 55 miles per hour, that's enough time to travel more than the length of a football field.

35% of teen drivers acknowledge texting while driving, and 21% of teen drivers involved in fatal accidents were distracted by their cell phones. Teen drivers are 4 times more likely than adults to get into a crash while talking or texting on a cell phone. The evidence is clear, use of a cell phone and texting while driving highly dangerous.

It's not only driving that's dangerous. Pedestrians that are distracted by looking at their cell phone are being killed at an increasing



rate. People lose focus of where they are and are stepping out into traffic with their head down, looking at their cell phone or texting, and are killed by vehicles. The most recent statistics on pedestrian deaths, show 7,330 pedestrian deaths from cell phone usage.

I have been driving down streets in Bushnell, and a car coming toward me has crossed over directly into my lane, and I start hitting the brakes, and I honk, and the driver looks up (they had been on their cell phone), and they swerved back into their own lane. I have seen young children using a cell phone while on their bicycles. I also see young children walking and using their cell phones, head



down, oblivious to traffic. This is an unacceptably dangerous

practice that we all must take responsibility for. Training our teen drivers not to use the cell phone when they're driving, encouraging young kids to keep their heads up when they are walking or riding their bikes, and all of us being very aware of the dangers of texting and driving. We can prevent injuries and deaths by common sense.

This is not intended to be legal advice. You should consult your own attorneys regarding the laws regarding cell phone usage.

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Friends in Motion

Anniversaries being celebrated include:

Gene and Linda McGrew



(56 years) of Bushnell. Happy Anniversary!

Birthday celebrations include: **Daryl Reid** of Marian, IL, **Glen Stroops** (89) of Avon, **Anna Kugler**



(79), **Peggy Norris**(89), and **Ron Rapp** (72), all of Bushnell. Happy Birthday to

all!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Apr. 6 & May 4 - VFW breakfast, 7 to 10 am.

Jun. 7 & Sep. 6 - Free blood pressure, pulse/oxygen, cholesterol and blood sugar checks at F&M Main Bank, 9 to 10 am.



Happy Easter!
April 21, 2019



Spring Has Sprung

COWBOY CAVIAR

Sherry Pico

- 3 Roma tomatoes, diced, seeds removed
- 2 ripe avocados, diced
- 1- 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1- 15 oz. can black eyed peas, rinsed and drained
- 1-1/2 cups frozen corn, thawed
- 1 bell pepper, diced (any color, or mixture)
- 1/3 cup red onion, diced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, small dice, seeds removed
- 1/3 cup Cilantro, finely chopped

Dressing

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- Tortilla chips, for serving

Combine tomatoes, avocado, onion, black beans, black eyed peas, corn, pepper, jalapeno pepper, and cilantro in a large bowl. Toss/stir well so ingredients are well-combined. In a separate



bowl, whisk together olive oil, lime juice, red wine vinegar, sugar, salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Pour dressing over other ingredients and stir well.

DILL POTATO SALAD

Krystal James

- 3 lbs. new potatoes
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 2 tsp. dried dill weed
- 4 green onions, chopped fine salt and pepper to taste



Boil potatoes, leaving skins on for about 15 minutes or until tender. Cool. Cut into bite

sized pieces and place in large mixing bowl. Combine all other ingredients and pour over potatoes. Mix until well blended. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

LEMON-STRAWBERRY PUNCH

Stephanie Christensen

- 3 cans (6 oz. each) lemonade concentrate, thawed
 - 1 box (10 oz.) frozen strawberries in light syrup, thawed and undrained
- Pour lemonade into punch bowl.



Stir in strawberries. Just before serving, add ginger ale and ice; gently stir.