



Beaverton Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and Beaverton Police Department will be joining forces across the country to intensify enforcement of distracted-driving laws, and to raise awareness about the dangers/ legal implications of distracted driving. This annual campaign is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) national *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* high-visibility enforcement effort that runs from April 11 to April 15, 2019.

According to NHTSA, between 2012-2017, nearly 20,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver. In fact, there were 3,166 people killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2017. This means that nearly one-tenth of all fatal crashes that year were reported as distraction-affected.

BPD and NHTSA urge you to put your phone down when you get behind the wheel. If you need to text, then pull over and do not drive. If you're driving, follow these steps for a phone-free experience:

- If you are expecting a text message or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location. Once you are safely off the road and parked, it is safe to text.
- Designate your passenger as your "designated texter." Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use can be habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone out of reach in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

Texting while driving is dangerous and illegal. Break the cycle. Remember: U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

##BPD##

