For Parents and Caregivers

TEEN DISTRACTED DRIVING

Why We CARE

33 Georgia teens (age 15 to 19) died in motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) in 2020.

7% of all teen MVC fatalities involved distracted driving.

3X Teens between the ages of 16 and 19 face the highest risk of accidents of any age group and are nearly three times more likely to be in a fatal crash than those age 20 and older.

How to PLAY IT SAFE

Set the Example

They’ll do what you do. Be sure you’re setting the example by being a smart driver.

- Silence cell phones and put them out of reach before starting to drive.
- Set GPS, music, and climate controls before taking the car out of park.
- If you need to use your phone, wait until the car is safely stopped to do so.

Have an honest conversation with your teens.
Teen drivers are less likely to text or use the phone if you discuss the risks of distracted driving with them.

Make it open and honest, rather than seeming like you are chastising them before they even start. One good way to send them off: “If you’re distracted, no one’s driving.”

Show them the facts. Like, 53% of those killed in teen distraction-related crashes were teens 15 to 19 years of age.

Make it relatable. DID YOU KNOW?

You will travel the length of a football field in the time it takes you to read one text message when going 55 mph.

It’s the Law in Georgia
All cellphone ban: Drivers younger than 18
Texting ban: All drivers

GET THE APP
- An app like Life 360 tracks your child’s speed while driving.
- An app such as AutoCoach helps with new driver training.

PLAY IT SAFE
with poison prevention, safe sleep, firearms, drowning, and more in the Georgia AAP Toolkit gaaap.org/play-it-safe/.

For data sources and additional information visit gaaap.org

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