HEADS UP, STAY SAFE CONTEST

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GRADE: 8
HEADS UP, STAY SAFE!

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How can walkers and drivers be safe (and safer) on Georgia's streets and highways?
Distracted Driving

Many people already know a lot about certain types of dangerous driving. For example, the group known as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has raised our awareness about the importance of not driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

However, the public knows less about the equally dangerous problem of distracted driving. One study from 2006 in California stated that 8 out of 10 accidents happened because drivers were distracted. The study showed that over a year 241 drivers reported a total of 82 crashes and 761 near-crashes, but only reported 15 of those incidents. This represents a reporting rate of only 0.06%, which means that there are many more incidents than are reported. Because Georgia has a similar problem, in 2018 it banned the use of most hand-held technology while driving. This means drivers cannot use their phone to text or call while driving.

Despite this law, there are still a lot of distractions that can do harm while driving. The most common include eating and drinking, getting things out of a purse or bag, and doing hair and make-up.
Distracted Walking

Do you usually text a message while walking? Do you usually play phone games and searching for a music while walking? You think distracted walking is not a big deal, but it is.

Distracted walking is a big problem.

Distracted walking means doing other works, while walking. It can be texting, listening to music, talking on the phone or eating and drinking foods. Lately, a lot of people are using phones while walking. People know distracted walking is dangerous. According to the survey, 78% of U.S adults said they think that distracted walking is a serious issue. But they still do it because they believe the accident won't happen to them.

Than, how serious is the distracted walking? In the U.S., walker deaths rose 27% from 2007 to 2016. And between 2000 to 2011, more than 11,000 injuries were happen. It is very serious. Severity of distracted walking, some states ban distracted walking. For example, Honolulu, Hawai is banning it now. Currently, business is developing apps.
Prevention Tips

Don't worry! There are still many things you can do to prevent accidents from distracted driving and walking.

WALKERS, you can:
- look around before crossing the street
- put your phone away while crossing the street
- make sure your music is not too loud
- wait to text and walk
- put your phone on grey mode so you be less distracted
- also use an app to warn walkers

You're phone can always wait to be used you can use it anytime you want but not while crossing the road.

If you’re a car driver you can’t use your phone while driving in Georgia anyway, but there are other things to reduce distraction

DRIVERS, you can:
- set your map/GPS before you live
- make sure you don’t have loud music
- also don’t eat/drink while driving
- put your phone on silent or vibrate
- use the Do No: Disturb feature while driving
- go hand free
- have your eyes on the road

1,514 fatalities due to distracted driving in GA in 2018

17% of fatalities from distracted behaviors were pedestrians

90% of pedestrians struck at 40 MPH or more become fatalities
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