

## Holiday Driving

People wait for it every year - the air becomes a little cooler, and communities come to life in twinkling lights and festive decorations. As exciting as the holidays are, they can also be the most dangerous time for driving. Drunk driving is not the only danger on the roads during the holidays. Distracted driving, aggressive driving, excessive speeding, and reckless driving can all result in severe consequences. Without warning, the happiest time of the year can quickly turn into a nightmare as people hurry to their holiday events



### Distracted driving can significantly impair a driver's Reaction Time

- ✓ Scan the road ahead
- ✓ Maintain a safe speed and position on the road
  - ✓ Judge safe gaps in traffic
- ✓ Maintain a general awareness of others on the roadway

The media most frequently attributes the distracted driving phenomenon to texting and general cell phone usage, but this can be misleading as cell phones are not the only distraction drivers face. Professional drivers especially, can experience fatigue or anxiety caused by tight deadlines and general thoughts about what's next in the workday.

### Keep your eyes on the road.

Prepare for your drive by actively looking for people and hazards in the area before you enter your vehicle. Shift your eyes constantly and check the rear-view mirror often. This keeps your brain focused on driving.

- Drive defensively. Expect the unexpected and always leave yourself an out.
- Signal your intentions to turn early enough to give others more time to prepare for your next move.
- In construction zones, be extra attentive, slow down and watch for workers, changing road surfaces and traffic patterns.

### Intoxicated Drivers

Someone dies as a result of alcohol impaired driving every forty-eight minutes in the United States and the state with the highest number of fatalities is Texas. Roughly one-third of all automobile accidents are the result of impaired driving. One of the most dangerous obstacles that you face while driving is the drunk drivers. It is likely that you pass intoxicated drivers constantly without realizing it, and it is only a matter of time before someone who has stubbornly decided to drive after having too much to drink puts your life in jeopardy because of their poor decisions. Several actions you can take to increase your safety on the highway:

- Always use your seat belts and make sure passengers are buckled up
- Maintain a generous following distance
- Use extra caution at intersections
- Be extra cautious during the late-night hours
- Holidays are particularly hazardous, especially during the evening hours
- Be a designated driver or designate a designated driver

**Intoxicated and impaired drivers are a very real danger for drivers and passengers on literally every roadway in the country. Accidents involving impaired drivers are not limited to one particular area or one type of roadway. A drunk driver can cause an accident anytime, anywhere. Remember to wear your seatbelt, be aware, and volunteer to be a designated driver.**

Source: <https://driving-tests.org/beginner-drivers/defending-yourself-from-the-dangers-of-drunk-drivers/>