

Sergeant Todd Belcher



14 years experience

- Ohio State Highway Patrol

Past assignments

OSP Academy 6 months

Fremont Patrol Post 1 year

Medina Patrol Post 6 years

Promoted to Sergeant Assigned to Georgetown Patrol Post





- Transferred to my current position the Canton Post in 2008
- Post Sergeant
- Why Traffic is important to me personally and professionally



Ohio State Highway Patrol



- Vision Statement
 - Building relationships to improve the quality of life and safety for the citizens of Ohio
- Mission Statement
 - As national leaders, The Ohio State Highway Patrol collaborates with community and safety partners to provide professional law enforcement services focused on deterring crime and promoting traffic safety to improve the quality of life for those we serve



How we accomplish our mission



- Jurisdiction
- Traffic Enforcement and Education
- Traffic Ticket
 - Change behavior
- More than likely it is not the first time



Traffic Cop



- Ticket writer
- False
- Deterring Crime
- How many people are effected by 1 traffic stop
- Criminals more than likely drive to a crime from a crime or transport criminal elements



Comparison



- OSP compared to Local law enforcement agencies
- OSP traffic enforcement
 - Jurisdiction on all Ohio roadways

Local agency

Private Property

Calls for service



OSP



- Proactive

- Troopers stop cars for traffic violations and further investigate the traffic stop
- Local Agencies respond to calls and crimes in progress or crimes that have already been committed
- Traffic crashes
 - Crashes are going to happen
 - Goal is to reduce the number of fatal crashes



Motor Vehicle Crashes



- No. 1 cause of death
- An estimated 39,000 to 46,000 people killed in crashes every year
- More than 2.2 million injuries from crashes in 2008

*Distractions
now join
alcohol and
speeding as
leading factors
in fatal and
serious injury
crashes.*





- Stark County OSP investigated 900 crashes year to date
 - Yearly average 2,500-3,000
 - Ohio 2014 843 Fatal Crashes
 - Stark County 2014
 - 42 fatal crashes
 - 44 people killed
 - Year to Date 3 fatal crashes down 8 year to date compared to 2014



Crash or Accident



- Law Enforcement View
- Crash
- Someone is at fault
- Caused by driver error and a contributing circumstance





My Opinion

- Driver Inattention or Distracted Driving
- Definition
- Any activity that could divert a persons attention away from the primary task of driving
- All distractions endanger driver, passenger bystanders and others safety





What is Distracted Driving?



- Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has potential to distract him or her from the **primary task** of driving and increases the risk of crashing.





Distractions

- Distractions can be:
 1. **Visual** – taking eyes off the road
 2. **Manual** – taking hands off the wheel
 3. **Cognitive** – taking the mind off driving
- **Texting includes all three!**



Serious Consequences



- Last year, 17,827 crashes in Ohio reported distraction including **44 FATAL CRASHES.**
- Across the United States **3,328 people were killed** in crashes involving a distracted driver.

Is your text worth it?





Not New



- Eating & Drinking
- Talking to Passengers
- Reading
- Grooming
- Radio
- I have seen it all
- RV/dog



Who is a distracted driver



- We all are
- Multi task
- My job
 - Drive a marked patrol
 - Observe other traffic and traffic violations
 - Conduct a traffic stop
 - Safe location
 - Radio in
 - Activate Lights
 - Watch Traffic and vehicle being stopped and occupants
 - New Trooper





How I deal with the distraction

- I am aware of the distraction
- I know it is there
- Slower speed
- More space between vehicles
- Look three or four times left right mirrors blind spots



New and More Dangerous Distractions



- Cell phones
 - Texting
 - Smart phones internet Wi-Fi
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/26/teen-distracted-driving-study-aaa_n_6944804.html?utm_hp_ref=distracted-driving



Texting



- Requires
 - Visual
 - Manual
 - Cognitive attention
 - Same for driving vehicle
 - So now you are taking your attention away



Texting compared to OVI



- SFST
- Use divided attention test to determine impairment
- Divided attention is also what occurs during distracted driving mostly in texting and driving



Driving Experience



- Most of us myself included
 - Were driving before cell phones
 - Not any more
 - Now kids text or use cell phones at such a early age



Best way to reduce distracted driving



- Education
- Starts at home with parents
- Continues at school
- Employment
- Enforcement



Parents



- Set the example
- Use technology to monitor



Employer



- Do not be part of the problem
 - Service calls
 - Delivery Deadlines
- Possibility of civil liability





**SAMPLE EMPLOYER POLICY ON
DISTRACTED DRIVING**



[Company Name] Distracted Driving Policy

Please read the Distracted Driving Policy, sign and return to your supervisor.

In order to increase employee safety and eliminate unnecessary risks behind the wheel, [Company Name] has enacted a Distracted Driving Policy, effective [Date]. We are committed to ending the epidemic of distracted driving, and have created the following rules, which apply to any employee operating a company vehicle or using a company-issued cell phone while operating a personal vehicle:

- Company employees may not use a hand-held cell phone while operating a vehicle – whether the vehicle is in motion or stopped at a traffic light. This includes, but is not limited to, answering or making phone calls, engaging in phone conversations, and reading or responding to emails, instant messages, and text messages.
- If company employees need to use their phones, they must pull over safely to the side of the road or another safe location.
- Additionally, company employees are required to:
 - Turn cell phones off or put them on silent or vibrate before starting the car.
 - Consider modifying voice mail greetings to indicate that you are unavailable to answer calls or return messages while driving.
 - Inform clients, associates and business partners of this policy as an explanation of why calls may not be returned immediately.
- [Company consequences for failing to follow policy]

I acknowledge that I have received a written copy of the Distracted Driving Policy, that I fully understand the terms of this policy, that I agree to abide by these terms, and that I am willing to accept the consequences of failing to follow the policy.

Employee Signature

Date

Employee Name (printed)



Ohio Laws



- Novice driver under 18
- No electronic communication device use for Primary law



Ohio Laws



- Over 18
 - No handheld electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication.
 - secondary law
 - Law enforcement shall not view interior
- So even law makers notice the experience matters
- Other States More Strict





Final Thoughts

At 35 mph you travel 51 feet

Think before you text or do anything else that distracts from the road. The second it takes to send a message, answer your phone or take a bite could mean your life or someone else's. Partner with us and

“Drive to Save Lives”

