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SAFETY ALERT TEXTING WHILST DRIVING

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WHAT HAPPENED:



1300apprentice believes that holding your mobile phone to call or text while driving is extremely dangerous, and threatens your safety and that of your passengers, other motorists and pedestrians.

NRMA recently completed a study on young drivers aged between 18 and 24, the study was conducted in a driving simulator and drivers were asked to drive under normal conditions before the simulation introduced receiving and sending text messages.

The study found the following:

- Drivers' lane keeping ability and ability to detect traffic signs and hazards reduced when text messaging BY 70%
- Number of incorrect lanes changes made increased by 140% when retrieving and sending texts
- When text messaging, drivers spent up to 400 %more time with their eyes off the road than they did when not text messaging.
- Drivers did attempt to compensate for the degradation in attention to the road by increasing following distance, but not by reducing speed
- The degradations to concentration on the road whilst texting are likely to greatly increase crash risk.

Handling your phone whilst driving is breaking the law. The penalties for handling a phone whilst driving is:

- Loss of 3 demerit points (4 if in a school zone)
- \$298.00 fine or \$397.00 in a school zone.
- If a driver is on Learner or Provisional Driving Permit they are not permitted to use a mobile phone whilst driving....even in a hands free kit.

If you cant control the urge to use you phone whilst driving.....Turn it off until you arrive at your destination

For more information please refer to RMS Campaign Website "Get your hand off it"
<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/getyourhandoffit.html>

For further information contact: Darren Gibson – WHS Manager 1300apprentice