

City encourages BUPD to save lives

Regardless of your feelings about freedom of choice, the statistics regarding the dangers of using cell phones while driving are undisputable.

Since 2014, cell phone-related crashes in Missouri have increased by 31%, with nearly 2,500 crashes in 2018. That's according to information provided by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. And, 12 of 15 states including the District of Columbia experienced a decrease in fatality rates within passing a hands-free cell phone law.

In support of decreasing the use of cell phones while driving, Lake Ozark Mayor Gerry Murawski has signed a proclamation in support of the Missouri Department of Transportation's effort to promote traffic safety and save lives and proclaiming Oct. 16 as BUPD Day – Buckle Up, Phone Down.

According to MoDOT, Missouri has lost nearly 1,000 lives every year for several years from injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents. A person texting and driving is 23 times more likely to be involved in a critical motor vehicle accident than a person who has put their phone down.

And consider this: Missouri is one of two states without a no texting law for all drivers -- and one of nine states without a hands-free law for either all drivers or novice drivers.

You can make a difference.

About BUPD

Established in 2017, the Buckle Up Phone Down Challenge was created to address the two most impactful actions a driver can take to prevent crashes or survive if one occurs: buckling their seat belts— every occupant, every time—and putting the phone down or turning it off if you're driving.

More than 10,000 individuals and businesses have accepted the challenge by signing a pledge to buckle their seat belts and put their phones down or turn them off while driving. Participants are encouraged to sign up online at modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown or at BUPD promotional events.

The campaign features news releases, YouTube videos and Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts to get the message out. A dedicated website (www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown) features both individual citizens and employees of participating businesses giving the "thumbs up-thumbs down" sign to show their support of the effort.

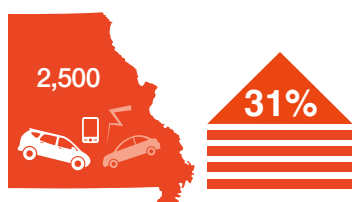
The BUPD message is working. According to a 2019 survey, seat belt use in Missouri has reached 87.7%—a 6.3% increase from January 2017 when BUPD began.

For more information, or to take the Buckle Up Phone Down Challenge, go to www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown.

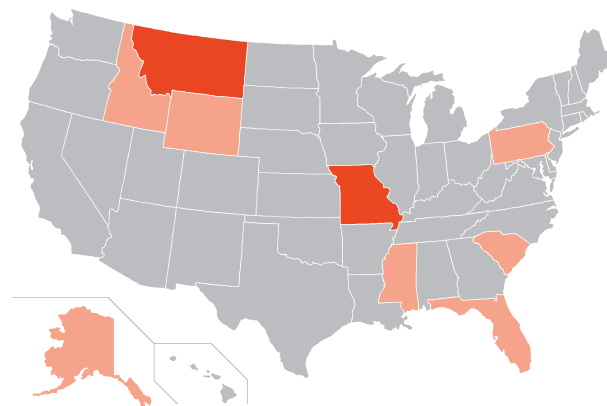


NEARLY
9 in 10
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ENGAGE IN
SMARTPHONE
ACTIVITIES
WHILE DRIVING.
(AT&T)

In 2018, Missouri **EXCEEDED** 900 traffic fatalities for the third year in a row.

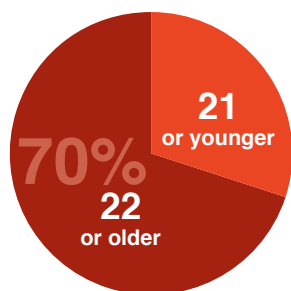


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...and **ONE** of **NINE** states without a hands-free law for either all drivers or novice drivers.



Distracted driving is not just a younger driver problem. Approximately 70% of drivers using cell phones in Missouri traffic crashes were 22 years of age or older.

12 OUT OF **15** STATES

and the District of Columbia experienced a decrease in fatality rates within 2 years of passing a hands-free law.



These 15 states experienced an average decrease in the fatality rate of 15.3 percent.



Six states and the District of Columbia experienced a decrease of more than 20 percent.



Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Transportation, AT&T, Governor's Highway Safety Association, and CTIA

December