



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MTPD to crack down on distracted driving**

*Distracted Driving Blitz in April*

The Miami Township Police Department is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to keep drivers safe on area roadways. The MTPD will focus on distracted driving violations throughout the month of April.

The *Distracted Driving Blitz* is funded through the Ohio Safety Grant awarded to the Miami Township Police Department in 2023 by the NHTSA. It allows officers to focus more attention on reducing traffic crashes, increasing OVI patrols and participating in national safety campaigns.

"Anytime motorists get behind the wheel, focusing on the road should be their only priority," Sgt. James McCarty, Miami Township Police Department, said. "Anything that takes your attention away from driving can be deadly, whether it be texting, eating or drinking, adjusting the radio, applying makeup, anything that takes their eyes off the road."

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The NHTSA and MTPD offer this advice to avoid distracted driving:

- Turn off electronic devices and put them out of reach before starting to drive.
- Be good role models for young drivers and set a good example. Talk with your teens about responsible driving.
- Speak up when a driver uses an electronic device behind the wheel. Offer to make the call for the driver, so his or her full attention stays on the road.
- Always wear your seat belt. Seat belts are your best defense against unsafe drivers.
- Be alert for pedestrians and cyclists, especially those who may themselves be distracted.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reports 57,182 distracted driving crashes among 15–24-year-olds in Ohio since 2019. As of the end of March, there were two fatal crashes and 25 serious-injury crashes blamed on distracted driving.

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