



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Phone Down, Eyes Up. VPD Officers Issue Multiple Citations to Distracted Drivers

On April 20, 2023, Officers with the Visalia Police Department issued 14 citations for hands-free cell phone violations during a distracted driving enforcement operation. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The Visalia Police Department has partnered with the California Office of Traffic Safety and Caltrans to promote the importance of distraction free driving.

"Despite repeated efforts to warn drivers about the hands-free cell phone law, some drivers continue to use their phones while operating a vehicle," Visalia Police Department Officer Stephens said. "Our ultimate goal is to change behaviors that help make our roads safer."

California has had distracted driving laws on the books since 2008. Under current law, drivers are not allowed to hold their phone or other electronic device while driving. This includes talking, texting, or using an app.

Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine. Violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense will result in a point being added to a driver's record.



The Visalia Police Department would like to remind everyone to:

- Always give driving your full attention
- Pull off the road entirely and come to a complete stop before you talk or text
- Put your phone away, turn it off, or use an app or your phone settings to block texts and calls or send auto reply texts while you are driving
- Tell friends, family, and coworkers you won't respond to calls or texts when you are behind the wheel
- Remember that all distractions are dangerous, so pay full attention when behind the wheel

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