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## **Gov. Murphy, NJDOT Encourage Public to Pay Attention During Distracted Driving Awareness Month**

**(Trenton)** – At the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), we warn about the dangers of distracted driving every month – human error is the largest reason for road fatalities. But in April the entire nation is urged to be more aware and alert behind the wheel, with **Distracted Driving Awareness Month**.

This national effort, recently supported in a [State proclamation](#) by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, is aimed at promoting public awareness of attentive driving, to not only protect motorists and their passengers, but also to protect road maintenance crews and construction workers, school crossing guards, emergency personnel, and law enforcement. It's everybody's job to keep New Jersey's roads safe.

Gov. Murphy has been a stalwart leader in the fight for safer roads, establishing the Target Zero Commission to reduce road fatalities and supporting two major NJDOT safe driving initiatives on social media and via advertising.

NJDOT, meanwhile, has improved its safety work during the winter icy roads period, rebuilt many of the state's most dangerous intersections, and implemented the globally successful Safe System Approach to improve road design, and the speed and efficiency with which emergency responders deal with crashes.

"My administration has taken action to ensure that fewer New Jersey families will have to suffer through a traffic fatality," Gov. Murphy said. "My Target Zero Commission will forge a clear path to making sure everyone can travel safely in New Jersey, and the first and best way to do that is to make sure New Jersey drivers are not distracted when behind the wheel."

"Distracted driving puts the lives of everyone at risk, whether they're a driver, passenger, pedestrian road worker or first responder," New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner and Chair of the Target Zero Commission Fran O'Connor said. "We need to create a culture in which distracted driving is no longer tolerated. No one should die because of a text."

Safe driving tips are simple: Keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel. Stay off your phone. Use your mirrors. Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. At 60

mph, a car covers approximately 90 feet *per second* – that’s six car lengths. If you’re tailgating, even the briefest distraction – reaching for a snack, changing a podcast – could lead to tragedy if the car in front of you stops short.

The Distracted Driving Awareness Month initiative also includes boosting public awareness of the [Move Over Law](#), which requires drivers to make room for emergency vehicles, tow trucks, and any vehicles stopped with flashing lights to help reduce the risk of accidents involving roadside workers and first responders.

Traffic deaths in New Jersey have been rising. Don’t become a statistic. Don’t drive distracted.

Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT’s traffic information website [www.511nj.org](http://www.511nj.org) for construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](#), on the [NJDOT Facebook page](#), or Instagram [@NewJersey.DOT](#).

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