

Press Release- Elwood Police

2018 Distracted Driving Awareness Week



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 10th, 2018

CONTACT: Chief Fred Hayes, 815-423-5339, fred.hayes@villageofelwood.com

Elwood Police Department to Participate in Second Annual Distracted Driving Week *Education, Enforcement Campaign to take place April 23-27*

Elwood, Illinois – Each day, 10 people are killed in distracted driving crashes - contributing to the 37,000-people killed in crashes on U.S. roadways during 2016, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). To help bring attention to the dangers associated with driving distracted, the Elwood Police Department, announced today it will again participate in Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week (DDAW) and conduct an enforcement campaign of Illinois' distracted driving laws.

"No distraction- whether texting or talking on the phone - is ever worth the loss of life on the roadway," said Chief Fred Hayes. "These senseless deaths can easily be prevented if drivers simply choose to pay attention when behind the wheel. Nothings that important, it can wait."

"Our officers are prepared to ticket anyone they observe driving while not paying attention to the roadway, regardless of the reason. If an officer finds you on the road texting or speaking on a cellular telephone, anytime or anywhere, you can expect to get a ticket – not a warning. No excuses and no exceptions," said Chief Hayes.

The second annual Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week is a coordinated effort between the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), AAA, The Illinois State Police, The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois High School High School and College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA) and nearly 300 local law enforcement throughout Illinois to educate motorists about the dangers of driving while distracted and enforcing the laws on Illinois' roadways. Last year's DDAW efforts resulted in over 18,000 warnings and citations for distracted driving offenses.

In addition to traffic enforcement the Elwood Police Department will participate in education activities in coordination with the IHSCDEA:

- Work with teens to display distracted driving posts around community
- Promote distracted driving messages through department's social media channels

Contrary to what some drivers may think, hands-free, handheld and in-vehicle technologies are not distraction-free, even if a driver's eyes are on the road and their hands are on the wheel. The latest AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety research found that:

- Drivers who text when behind the wheel more than double their odds of being involved in a crash;

- Drivers who use in-vehicle technologies, like voice-based and touch screen features, can be distracted for more than 40 seconds when completing tasks like programming navigation or sending a text message.
- Removing eyes from the road for just two seconds doubles the risk for a crash



Violating Illinois's distracted driving laws can be costly. Know before you go. In Illinois:

- Law prohibits all drivers from texting and driving
- Law prohibits all drivers from using a hand-held phone while driving
- Law prohibits all teen drivers from using a cell phone while driving

For more information on Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week visit www.iddaw.org. These partnerships have been formed to help further a traffic safety culture in Illinois and to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries resulting from distracted driving. Please help the ILACP, AAA, and Elwood, to keep Illinois' roadways safe and Illinois strong.