



Is it worth it?

Distracted Driving Can Ruin Lives

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“Parents don’t understand when they hand their kids a cell phone, they’re handing them a lethal weapon,” Judy Teater of Spring Lake Michigan emotionally states as she recalls the horrendous day in a heart-wrenching video on the [government distracted driving website](#).

She and her 12-year-old son, Joe Teater, were on their way to an after school activity when the impact happened. A woman was talking on her cell phone and didn’t see the Teater’s vehicle. Her Hummer crashed into the family’s car.

Joe suffered critical injuries and was rushed to the hospital. He died the next day.

This is just one of many stories about how distracted driving can ruin lives. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood reports “every single time you take your eyes off the road or talk on the phone while you’re driving - even for just a few seconds - you put yourself and others in danger.”

In Michigan it is against the law to text while driving, but as can be seen in the case of Joe, even talking on the cell phone or doing other activities in the car can be deadly. Activities such as eating/drinking, talking to passengers reading a map, using a GPS, watching a video, and adjusting the radio/cd/MP3 player could cause tragic accidents.

Pioneer State Mutual wants to remind you to be safe as you get into your car. Take extra precautions to remove any distractions **before** you start driving. If something does arise while you are driving that requires your attention, pull over to handle the situation. **Remember, it’s better to be safe than sorry.**

