



News Release

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Ohio Turnpike, Ohio State Highway Patrol report results of Distracted Driver Enforcement Zones

Two first-ever Distracted Driving Enforcement Zones were established on the Ohio Turnpike

BEREA (Oct. 8, 2020) – Many distracted drivers on the Ohio Turnpike did not follow the advice to put their phones down.

Today, the Ohio Turnpike and the Ohio State Highway Patrol jointly announced the results of a distracted driving safety initiative along two sections of the Ohio Turnpike. The initiative began on Aug. 18 and ended on Sept. 29.

Troopers issued 60 citations that included a charge of distracted driving inside the two sections, which were the first ever on the Ohio Turnpike designated as **Distracted Driving Enforcement Zones**. Motorists saw an increased presence of troopers and electronic signage within these zones in an effort to reduce crashes and raise awareness. Statewide from 2018 through 2019, there were 27,198 crashes involving distracted driving. Of those, 9,396 were injury crashes and 88 were fatalities.

Distracted Driving Enforcement Zone Locations:

Zone 1 in Erie County: Milepost 108 to 116, eastbound and westbound lanes

Zone 2 in Summit County: Milepost 174 to 190, eastbound and westbound lanes

“Now that we have established precedent with distracted driver enforcement zones, I hope drivers will think twice before being tempted to use their phones. It’s just not worth the risk,” said Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E., Executive Director. “Our top priority is safety and this partnership is worth repeating in the future.”

“The dangers of distracted driving are apparent to everyone yet people continue to do it,” said Staff Lt. William Haymaker, Turnpike Liaison. “The purpose of establishing these zones is to bring further awareness and education to the problem of distracted driving.”

Distracted driving is any non-driving activity with the potential to distract a person from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing. Distractions can be visual, taking eyes off of the road; manual, taking hands off the wheel; or cognitive, taking the mind off the driving task. Texting while driving is an example that results in all three types of distraction.

Motorists are encouraged to use #677 to report dangerous or impaired drivers, as well as drug activity.

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