



# News Release

682 Prospect Street, Berea, Ohio 44017-2799  
Contacts: Brian Newbacher, (440)-821-3399  
Sgt. Ray Santiago, OSHP, (614) 202-3797

[www.ohioturnpike.org](http://www.ohioturnpike.org)



Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E.  
Executive Director

Col. Richard S. Fambro  
Superintendent

## **Ohio Turnpike, Highway Patrol launch another Distracted Driving Enforcement Zone**

**BEREA** (March 1, 2021) – Every time someone takes their eyes off the road – even for just a few seconds – they put their lives and the lives of others in danger.

That's why the Ohio Turnpike and the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) launched a distracted driving safety initiative along a nearly 30-mile stretch of the Ohio Turnpike. This initiative will begin today and end on Wednesday, March 31.

The section is being designated as a **Distracted Driving Enforcement Zone** and will span across Cuyahoga, Summit and Portage counties. Motorists will see an increased presence of troopers and additional electronic signage within this zone in an effort to reduce crashes and raise awareness. Statewide, from 2019 through 2020, there were 24,489 crashes involving distracted driving. Of those, 8,654 were injury crashes and 70 were fatal crashes.

### Distracted Driving Enforcement Zone Location:

Cuyahoga, Summit and Portage counties: Milepost 165.1 to 191.6, eastbound and westbound lanes.

"Our top priority is safety and this effort will help us reduce crashes and make people think twice before driving while distracted," said Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E., Executive Director. "We appreciate this partnership with the Highway Patrol and their enforcement work to discourage distracted driving."

"Driving distracted is unsafe, irresponsible and its consequences can be devastating for families," said Staff Lieutenant William Haymaker, OSHP Turnpike Liaison. "The purpose of establishing this zone 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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### **For more information:**

Brian Newbacher, Public Information Officer, (440)-821-3399, [brian.newbacher@ohioturnpike.org](mailto:brian.newbacher@ohioturnpike.org)  
Sgt. Ray Santiago, OSHP Public Affairs, (614) 202-3797, [JRSantiago@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:JRSantiago@dps.ohio.gov)