## 2020 *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* Distracted Driving Campaign

## C2D Enforcement Techniques

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| **Spotters**  An officer, usually standing on the side of the road in plain clothing, radios or calls ahead to another officer when a passing motorist is observed texting or using a cell phone. The second officer typically makes the stop and writes the ticket. Use of spotters on overpasses and elevated roadways, as well as from taller SUVs and trucks, can be effective in identifying drivers manipulating electronic devices given the elevated observation angle.  **Roving Patrols**  Officers observe drivers discretely, from strategically placed patrol vehicles, while actively seeking out drivers using cell phones or texting. Officers have reported that the use of higher vantage points, SUVs, and unmarked vehicles are particularly effective tools to identify violators. Roving patrols that target high-risk and high traffic volume areas in their communities have been successful.  This technique can also be done with two officers in one vehicle, where the passenger spots and calls out the violation, followed by the driver initiating the stop. The advantage with this approach is safety, allowing the driver of the unmarked vehicle to focus on driving.  **Motorcycle Patrols**  A motorcycle provides several advantages to the detection of violators. A motorcycle has a higher vantage point, offering a better view into a passenger vehicle than from a typical patrol vehicle. This is useful for directly observing a driver who uses a phone below the window frame. Another advantage is an officer’s maneuverability on a motorcycle. An officer on a motorcycle can do things that officers in full-size passenger vehicles cannot do. Motorcycle officers, for example, can drive right up beside an offender, oftentimes unnoticed, and look down into the vehicle and more easily observe violations.  **Intersection Enforcement**  At an intersection, an unmarked vehicle is parked perpendicular to traffic in a location that provides the officer an unobstructed view of traffic. Officers can primarily watch for texting violations, in addition to other obvious traffic violations. This strategy is particularly appealing to officers, who find it to be an easy way to observe traffic and enforce the law.  **Stationary/Covert Enforcement**  Officers parked in either marked or unmarked vehicles look for cell phone/texting violations: on limited access highways; on secondary roads at intersections, parking lots, or roundabouts/rotaries; from an elevated vehicle such as an SUV or pickup truck, sometimes with tinted windows; or on highway ramps.  **Lane Splitting**  Lane-splitting refers to an officer on a two-wheeled vehicle (motorcycle) moving between roadway lanes of vehicles that are proceeding in the same direction. This allows a motor officer to drive between lanes and observe violations, especially at controlled intersections. This technique is quite useful for citing violators during HVE waves, but is not legal in all States.  **Saturation Patrols**  A saturation patrol (also called a blanket patrol, “wolf pack,” or dedicated patrol) consists of a large number of law enforcement officers patrolling a specific area for a set time to increase visibility of enforcement and identify distracted driving violations. Multiple agencies often combine and concentrate their resources to conduct saturation patrols.  **Checkpoints**  NHTSA defines a sobriety checkpoint as the stopping of vehicles, or a specific sequence of vehicles (e.g., every fifth vehicle), at a predetermined fixed location to detect drivers who are impaired by alcohol or other drugs. One purpose of a sobriety checkpoint is to increase the perceived risk of detection and arrest for individuals who might otherwise decide to drive impaired. This is a checkpoint’s general deterrence effect. The fact that all, or a proportion of, vehicles are stopped reduces the impaired drivers’ confidence that they can avoid detection by concealing or compensating for alcohol or drug impairment.  The checkpoint tactic can be applied to distracted driving as long as it is legally permissible. Checkpoints generally work well to generate news coverage, and result in various violations being ticketed, in addition to any distracted driving violations. |