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## Nearly 360 caught in police crackdown, 62 for distracted driving



More than 60 people were either ticketed or issued warnings by Naperville police for talking or texting on cell phones while driving during the last week of April. (Daniel Hulshizer / AP)

By **Bill Bird**  
Naperville Sun

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**N**early 360 tickets and warnings — 62 to people using cellphones — were issued during the Naperville Police Department's first-ever "distracted driving" crackdown.

The campaign, conducted from April 24 to 28, was coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and AAA.

Sgt. Derek Zook, who oversees the Naperville police traffic unit, said the majority of the citations and warnings were for speeding and other driving infractions, but 41 of the tickets and 21 of the warnings were for distracted driving.

Distracted driving under state law is the illegal use of cellphones for texting or placing/receiving calls while driving, Zook said. Other actions, such as eating, drinking and even shaving, "are considered distracted driving but (are) not enforceable" under law, he said.

"The dangers of distracted driving are real, and we hope to make that message clear to motorists through education and enforcement," Zook said in a news release. "When you're driving, just drive."

Statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed 3,477 people were killed and 391,000 others were injured in 2015 in traffic crashes caused by distracted drivers. That marked a 9 percent increase over the previous year, the release said.

The distracted driving enforcement effort was supported by the National Safety Council, Illinois State Police, the ~~Illinois Insurance Association~~, SafetyServe.com and nearly 300 state law enforcement and fire agencies, according to the release.

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