### **New Year—New Laws**

### California expands restrictions for phone use while driving beginning January 1, 2017.



It is already illegal for drivers to call or text without a hands-free device in California

According to the California Office of Traffic Safety ten years ago there were no smartphones and today there are over 200 million in use in the U.S. and that number continues to rise. The use of cell phones while driving also continues to rise.

A research study by A.T.&T. in 2015 found that 7 in 10 smartphone users engage in smartphone activities while driving. (4 in 10 tap into social media, and almost 3 in 10 surf the net.) . Even though most people are familiar with the danger of using a phone while driving, they still engage in this dangerous practice.

Assembly Bill 1785 (effective January 1, 2017) significantly expands

California's restrictions on the use of mobile phones when driving.

The bill forbids drivers from "holding and operating" their devices for any reason. There is an exception for functions that only require "the motion of a single swipe or tap of the driver's finger" as long as the phone is mounted either on the windshield or dashboard

Under the law, drivers face a \$20 first-time fine and \$50 for every subsequent offense.

### New addition to the California child car seat law effective January 1, 2017.

Buckling up is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and your passengers in a crash. It is extremely important to make sure all children riding in your car are properly secured before every trip.

Thousands of children are injured or killed every year because their child passenger safety seats were not installed properly. Remember, most collisions occur within a mile of the home - so buckle your child in a safety seat for every trip, no matter how short

California Car Seat Law Change (Effective January 1, 2017):

### New Addition:

Children under 2 years of age shall ride in a rear-facing car seat unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds OR is 40 or more inches tall. The child shall be secured in a manner that complies with the height and weight limits specified by the manufacturer of the car seat.

### **Current California Law:**

 Children under the age of 8 must be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat.

- Children who are 8 years of age OR have reached 4'9" in height must be secured by a safety belt.
- Passengers who are 16 years of age and over are subject to
  California's Mandatory Seat Belt law.



## **Driving in wet weather**



It's winter in Roseville and that means we have to deal with driving in the rain. It's important to take wet weather seriously. Most importantly, you have to drive according to the conditions and adjust your habits to avoid sliding, skidding, or being involved in a collision. Here are a few tips to keep in mind this winter season:

Stay focused and slow down. Pay attention to the road, other cars and pedestrians. Rain may impair your ability to see well and your ability to stop may be hindered by the slickness of the road.

- Turn your lights on. When it starts to rain, turn on your headlights immediately. It's the law.
- Prive with both hands on the wheel. You should drive with your hands at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock. This will give you maximum control if you have to turn, serve, or react quickly. Traditional wisdom said to drive with your hands at 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock. However, this increases the chances of injury from airbags in a collision.
- Stay five seconds behind the car in front of you. During normal conditions you can leave a 3-4 second gap between your car and the car in front of you. In the rain, this distance should increase to at least 5 seconds.

 Avoid slamming on the brakes. This can cause you to slide forward, and

- you won't be able to control the car. Hitting the brakes too hard can also force water into your brakes, making them less effective.
- Take turns slowly. Turning too quickly on a wet road can cause your tires to hydroplane, which will cause you to lose control of your car
- Don't use cruise control. This is another factor that can lead to hydroplaning. The weight of the car shifts slightly when you ease on or off the accelerator, and this helps maintain traction with the road. With cruise control you speed is constant, there is no weight shift. Thus, the car can lose traction.

(wikihow.com)

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## Don't fall for these smartphone scams



## Criminals target smartphone market

There are over 200 million smartphones in use in the United States and that number continues to grow. So, it's no wonder that criminals are targeting the smartphone market in hopes of getting your money or personal information.

According to AARP (American Association of Retired People) there are some common scams that smartphone users need to be aware of:

### **SPAM**

If you are a smartphone user you have probably received unwanted spam



messages. Did you know that people are three times more likely to respond to spam received by cellphone than when using a desktop or laptop computer? This can be dangerous. More than a quarter of text-message spam (such as free gift cards, cheap medications, and similar come-ons) is intended to defraud you, compared with only 10% of spam arriving from email. These texts often lead you to shady websites that install malware on your phone or seek to steal sensitive personal details for ID theft.

#### What to know:

Don't click on links or follow instructions to text "stop" or "no" to prevent future texts. This only confirms to scammers that yours is a live, active number for future spam. Use and update antimalware software designed for smartphones. Forward suspicious texts to 7726 ("SPAM" on most keypads) to alert your carrier to those numbers, and then delete them.

### The one-ring con

Criminals program calls to smartphones to ring only once or disconnect when you answer. Your curiosity over a missed-call alert results in you spending upwards of \$30 to call back. The seemingly American area code is really an international phone number. Often times the phone number is in the Caribbean with a premium connection fee and per-minute rate. You might also find charges on your bill with terms such

as "special services," Internet advertising," or "minimum monthly usage fee."

#### What to know:

Beware of any unfamiliar calls, one ring or otherwise, with area codes 268, 284, 473, 649, 664, 767, 809, 829, 849, or 876

### **Bank messages**

These text messages claim to be from your bank or credit card company and says there's a problem with your account. You're instructed to click an included link, which leads you to a lookalike, scammer-run website that steals your name, account number, and online log-in credentials.

#### What to know:

If there is really an account problem, you may get an email, but it will include your name and a portion of your account number. Or, your bank or credit card company may telephone you with a fraud alert, but it won't ask for any personal data.

Finally, smartphones are prime targets for theft. Don't reveal any "secrets" if it winds up in the wrong hands. Always protect it with a strong PIN. Don't use it to store credit card and account log-in information or anything else potentially compromising.

## Planning to drive to the snow this season?

If you plan to drive to the snow this season, make sure to take a "winter weather kit." Cal Trans lists the following items that you might want to consider in your kit.

- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- Blankets, extra clothing, water and snacks - It is a good idea to take along these items in case you have a delay in getting to your destination.
- Clean, dry towels to dry your hands after installing snow chains.
- Gloves are helpful to protect hands from the cold when installing chains.

- Ice scraper/deicer to keep windows clear of snow/ice for improved visibility.
- Shovel to free your vehicle if you should get snowed in.
- A small broom or brush can be used to clear snow off your vehicle.
- A spare key –Many motorists have locked themselves out of their cars when stopping to put on tire chains.
- Sand/kitty liter can help with traction should you get stuck in the snow.

Whenever you travel to the mountains during the winter, always be prepared for the unexpected.

Get access to the most up-to-date weather warnings and advisory information at mobile.weather.gov and bookmark it in your phone.



Sources: AARP, CHP.gov, Wikihow.com, Office of Traffic Safety

#### **Police Department**

1051 Junction Blvd. Roseville CA 95678 (916) 774-5000 www.roseville.ca.us/police

> Call 9-1-1 EMERGENCY IN PROGRESS

## Abandoned Vehicle Hotline

(916) 746-1022

**Permits** (916) 774-5093

**Animal Control** (916)774-5090

# Community Events & Neighborhood Watch

(916) 774-5050

PDCommunityServices@roseville.ca. us

## **Graffiti Abatement** (916) 746-1021

## Police News & Crime Alert Emails:

www.roseville.ca.us/enotify

#### **RCONA**

(Roseville Coalition Of Neighborhood Associations) www.RCONA.org

