



# SAFETY/SENSE

The Monthly Newsletter of Delaware Safety Council

April 2023 Volume 2 No. 4



Distracted Driving Awareness & Workplace **Violence** Month

workplace  
**violence**

Awareness Month



## Letter From Executive Director — Stacey Inglis

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Dear Members and Friends,

April is *Distracted Driving Awareness Month*. With Delaware roadway fatalities the highest in 16 years, now is the time for everyone to slow down and refocus on the road.

On March 29th, Governor Carney along with DelDOT, Department of Safety & Homeland Security and members of the General Assembly announced a package of new initiatives and legislation designed to improve safety on Delaware's roadways.

Governor Carney reiterated that safety is a priority for his administration and that the pieces of the legislation announced added to the efforts already underway. Current actions by the Delaware State Police and DelDOT to address traffic safety include:

- Increased enforcement for speeding and distracted drivers
- Increased multi-model safety investments
- Increased enforcement of illegal truck parking
- Pilot of wrong way driver notification system
- Increased intersection safety measures including don't block the box and red light running.

*Stacey*

Stacey Inglis  
Executive Director  
Delaware Safety Council

Member of:



# National Work Zone Awareness Week

April 17th—21st

One occupational hazard that often takes the lives of workers occurs because drivers are not obeying traffic laws through construction zones. [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#) is April 17–21, 2023. This awareness campaign is held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving because we've all experienced frustration, rushing, fatigue and even complacency when driving through a construction work zone.

Everyone plays a role in work zone safety. National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week highlights the deadly dangers of inattention at highway work areas.

The 2023 weeklong commemoration included:

- **Work Zone Safety Training Day** - April 17
- **National Kickoff Event** - April 18
- **Go Orange Day** - April 19
- **Social Media Storm** - April 20
- **Moment of Silence** - April 21





# Work Zone Safety Training Day

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

NWZAW will start on April 17 with Work Zone Safety Training Day, which emphasizes the importance of laying the groundwork for safety through training of personnel. Companies were encouraged to pause during the workday for safety demonstrations, discussions about safety policies and other prevention steps.

Struck-by injuries are a leading cause of death, and since 1992 the leading cause of nonfatal injuries in the construction industry. The national stand down encourages employers and workers to pause voluntarily during the workday for safety demonstrations, training in hazard recognition and fall prevention, and talks about hazards, protective methods, and the company's safety policies, goals and expectations.



## Go Orange Day

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

All roadway safety professionals across the country are encouraged to wear orange to proudly show their support of work zone safety. NWZAW and Go Orange Day are especially important to the families of victims who have lost their lives in work zones.

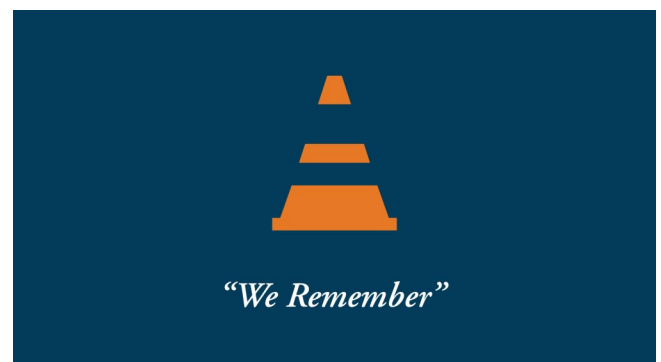
Show your support on social media by posting your orange pics and use the hashtags #NWZAW and #Orange4Safety.

**ATSSA  
GOES ORANGE  
FOR WORK ZONE SAFETY**

## Moment of Silence

**Friday, April 21, 2023**

The moment of Silence was new in 2022 and remembers the people who lost their lives in work zone incidents.



## Distracted Driving Awareness Month

**Auditory** . **Visual** . **Cognitive** . **Manual**

### THE ISSUE

# What Is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

### THE

## Consequences

### THE ISSUE

## Get Involved

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2020, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

### Teens

Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family, and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

## Parents

Parents first have to lead by example — by never driving distracted — as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

### 1. Visual Distractions

Visual distractions are anything that redirects your focus from the road. Visual distraction can take many forms. Sometimes it could be witnessing a flailing tube dancer at the side of the road, looking at a street sign, seeing a car crash while driving, or perhaps trying to look at someone in the back seat of your car.

As soon as you avert your eyes from the road, you become less aware of the vehicle ahead and traffic signals which increase the likelihood of a severe rear-end collision.

### 2. Manual Distractions

Anything that prompts you to take your hands off the steering wheel is a manual distraction. Whatever necessitates you to reach for your cell phone, change the radio station, or even take a sip of water is quite frankly a manual distraction. Such distractions tend to slow down your reaction time when you need to take swift action, for instance, an animal crossing the road or an unexpected obstacle.

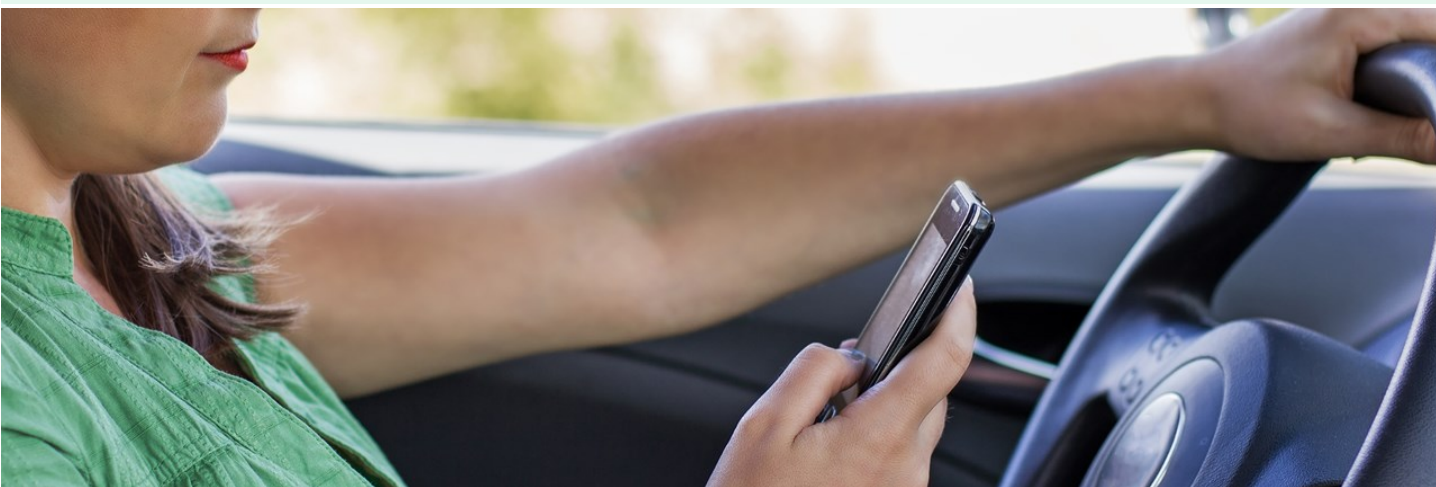
### 3. Auditory Distractions

Auditory distractions are sound-based, as the name implies. Auditory distractions noises are all sounds that make drivers lose focus on the road. Besides this, anything that interferes with a driver's ability to hear is basically an auditory distraction.

Such distractions include making phone calls, listening to loud music, yelling at the drivers of other motor vehicles, or hearing noisy phone notifications. If you have to listen to music when driving, ensure to keep the volume at a reasonable level to ensure it doesn't distract you from the road.

### 4. Cognitive Distractions

Cognitive distractions on the road are both difficult to define and exceptionally dangerous. Such distractions arise from the mind being flooded with all kinds of information, which inadvertently steers the driver's attention from the road.



# APRIL

## workplace violence

Month

### Workplace Violence:

#### A Universal Threat

Unfortunately, none of us can say, “This won’t happen where I work.” Workplace violence (WPV) is a chronic threat across all industries and occupations. In 2020, 705 U.S. workers lost their lives to violence – approximately 15% of all fatal occupational injuries (BLS, 2021). Still, this is likely a vast underestimation; workers may be suffering as many as three times the number of injuries and illnesses than officially reported . All employers should have a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan in place to be prepared for the worst.

Did You Know? Each year, 761,000 workers experience some form of physical assault in the workplace (NCV Survey, 2021) Behind transportation incidents, violence is the top cause of death for women in the workplace (BLS, 2021) In the past decade, workplace violence has taken the lives of 788 U.S. workers per year, on average (BLS, 2011-2021) NIOSH estimates the annual nationwide economic cost of workplace violence is nearly \$121 billion Employee productivity is estimated to decrease up to 50% in the 6 to 18 weeks following an incident of violence, while turnover can increase to upwards of 30% to 40% (National Institute for the Prevention of Workplace Violence, n.d.)

Be Prepared With a Plan Unfortunately, many organizations feel ill-equipped to prevent a workplace violence event. A nationwide poll of over 2,100 American HR professionals and employees showed about 30% of employees feel ill-equipped to deal with workplace violence, while only 45% are aware whether their employer has an existing prevention plan in place (SHRM, 2019).

All too often, the incentive for implementing a prevention plan comes in response to tragedy. We believe a well-written and implemented workplace violence prevention program, combined with hazard controls and employee training, can reduce the incidence of workplace violence.





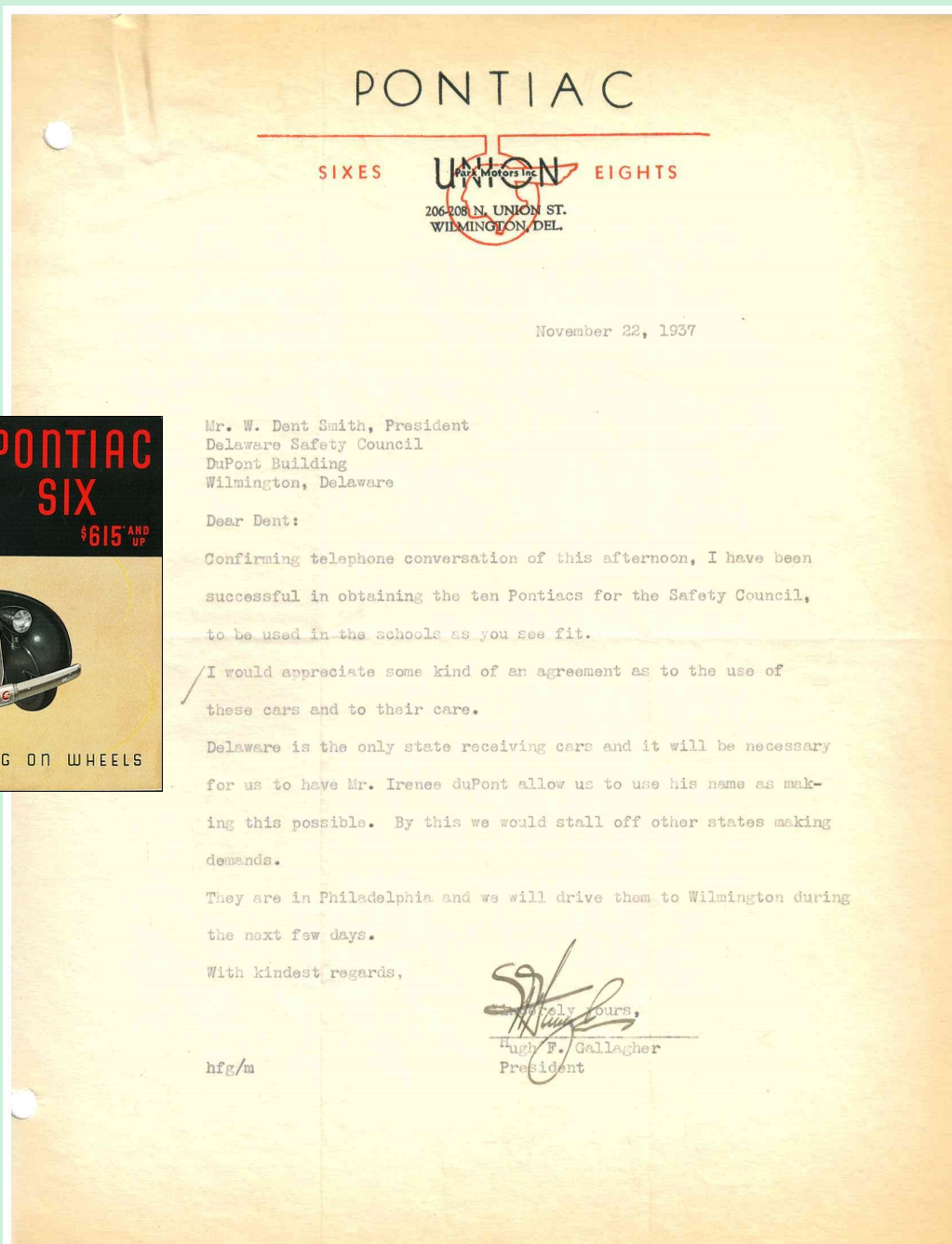
## Celebrating 89 Years of In-School Safe Driving Programs

In 1934, Delaware Safety Council spearheaded Delaware's in-school safe driving programs. We began with in-class instructions and in the 1935-36 school year, we expanded to include in-vehicle instruction.

In the beginning, eight Pontiac vehicles were used on

a rotational basis going from participating school to participating school. In 1936, the in-vehicle program was expanded through a national partnership with Pontiac.

Pontiac donated 10 new vehicles via Union Park Motors on Union Street in Wilmington, Delaware. As stated in the letter below, Delaware was the only state to receive complimentary vehicles for these school safe driving programs.



Mr. W. Dent Smith, President  
Delaware Safety Council  
DuPont Building  
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Dent:

Confirming telephone conversation of this afternoon, I have been successful in obtaining the ten Pontiacs for the Safety Council, to be used in the schools as you see fit.

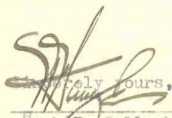
I would appreciate some kind of an agreement as to the use of these cars and to their care.

Delaware is the only state receiving cars and it will be necessary for us to have Mr. Irene duPont allow us to use his name as making this possible. By this we would stall off other states making demands.

They are in Philadelphia and we will drive them to Wilmington during the next few days.

With kindest regards,

hfg/m

  
Hugh F. Gallagher  
President