



Scenic Pacifica  
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## CITY OF PACIFICA

### Pacifica Police Department

2075 Coast Highway • Pacifica, California 94044-3038  
(T) 650-738-7314 • (F) 650-355-1172 • [www.pacificapolice.org](http://www.pacificapolice.org)

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DANIEL STEIDLE  
Chief of Police

## PRESS RELEASE

### May 8, 2019

#### **Pacifica Police Department Issues 417 Citations for Distracted Driving** *Enforcement Effort Held During Distracted Driving Awareness Month*

Pacifica CA. – The Pacifica Police Department cited 417 drivers for violating California’s hands-free cell phone law as part of a larger effort to educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving.

“April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and it is important for drivers to understand the huge risks they take using their cell phones behind the wheel,” Pacifica Police Department Sergeant Steven Mansker. “It’s careless, dangerous and illegal. Drivers should keep their eyes on the road, not their phone.”

Under the most recent cell phone law that went into effect in 2017, drivers are prohibited from having a phone in their hand for any reason and can only use their phone in a hands-free manner. The phones must be mounted on the dashboard, windshield or center console, and can only be touched once with the swipe or tap of a finger to activate or deactivate a function. First-time offenders face a \$162 fine.

A 2018 survey by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) on driver cell phone use found about 4.5 percent of drivers are still using their cell phone, and more often to perform a function on the phone, versus talking.

“When drivers look down at their phone to read or sent a text, check GPS or scroll through social media, they are taking their eyes off the road, which is incredibly dangerous,” Pacifica Police Department Sergeant Steven Mansker. “There is a reason it is against the law.”

If you need to make a call or text someone, the Pacifica Police Department suggests pulling over and parking at a safe location. If you are unable to resist the urge and stay off the phone while driving, put your phone in a place you can’t reach, like the backseat or trunk.

In addition to phones, other serious distractions include eating, grooming, reaching for fallen objects, fiddling with the radio or console controls and changing clothes. Pacifica Police Department encourages everyone to avoid distractions and go safely.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Daniel Steidle  
Chief of Police

Contact:  
Chris Clements, Captain  
Pacifica Police Department  
2075 Coast Highway  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
650-738-7314  
[clementsc@pacificapolice.org](mailto:clementsc@pacificapolice.org)