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Traffic Sgt. Brian O'Heren with the Burleson Police Department joined the Texas Department of Transportation and four other law enforcement agencies this morning at a press conference for TxDOT's Talk, Text, Crash campaign.

TxDOT urges drivers to focus 100 percent on driving when they are behind the wheel. Behavior that takes a driver's attention away from the road is dangerous, including eating, reading, grooming, programming a GPS, or adjusting the radio.

Drivers are advised to put the phone away or turn it off before getting behind the wheel; pull off the road entirely before texting or talking on the phone; tell friends and co-workers that you won't respond to calls or texts when driving; and use a smartphone app that sends auto-reply texts when you are behind the wheel.

Kathy Bond of Fort Worth talked about the death of her daughter, Katrina Bond, who died in 2011 from an accident allegedly involving texting and driving. According to TxDOT, one in five vehicle crashes in Texas involve driver distraction. The majority of drivers involved in those distracted driving crashes are between 16 and 24 years old (29,009) and 45 and older (24,661).

In Burleson, if you don't have a hands-free device you can't use your cell phone while driving through an active school zone. It is illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used. "Use of a wireless communication device" includes texting, reading or answering e-mails, and any and all other functions of a cellular telephone. Violating this law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$200.

According to TxDOT, 19,981 people were seriously injured and 505 people were killed in distracted driving crashes in Texas in 2013. Texting takes your eyes off the road for almost five seconds, on average. At 55 miles per hour, that is like driving an entire football field blindfolded (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

Other speakers included Brian Barth from TxDOT, Fort Worth Police Chief Jeffrey Halstead, and Fort Worth Mayor Pro Tem W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman. The departments represented June 18 included Burleson, Fort Worth, Arlington, Tarrant County and the Department of Public Safety. For more, go to <http://bit.ly/1nPHHJk> on the TxDOT website.