

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 63

Date: July 2023	Focus Group: Vehicle Drivers
Topic: Driving Distractions	Issued by: Craig Fisher

Background and Incident: While driving near a busy intersection a driver’s attention was momentarily distracted by their phone, which didn’t connect to the vehicle’s ‘hands-free’ system. He drove through on a red arrow. Fortunately, the oncoming traffic was slow-moving but he had to quickly gather his composure to miss a walking pedestrian.

Injury Details: No injuries or damage to any parties but the driver was left very shaken by his actions. Good on you mate – for owning up and reporting this – so that we can all take a lesson from the incident.

Risk Awareness: [Waka Kotahi](#) advises that driver distraction is a serious road safety risk leading to 22 deaths and 113 serious injuries in 2022.

Safe Behaviours:

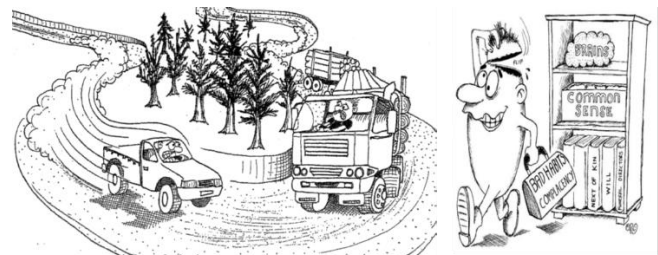
- If you are going to use the phone while driving please make sure the ‘hands-free’ system works – seek help if need be and sort it out before you drive.
- Stop and pull over to take that call – especially for long and detailed conversations.
- Driving responses like hard swerving, heavy braking, and speeding e.g. through school zones, are often linked to distractions – perhaps why our ‘risk points’ (as recorded against the Argus Tracking national average) have increased recently.
- Consider setting smart watches and phones to “do not disturb while driving” mode.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)



“The successful warrior driver is the average man, with a laser-like focus”
Bruce Lee