



Distracted Driving in British Columbia









Using an Electronic Device while Operating a Motor Vehicle



- Distracted driving is any activity that impacts a driver's ability to focus on the road and is one of the top contributing factors in police-reported injury crashes in B.C.
- Research shows that electronic device use is the most common distraction that drivers engage in behind the wheel
- Dangerous driving behaviour claims 78 lives each year







Using an Electronic Device while Operating a Motor Vehicle

- MVA s.214.2(1) \$368 & 4 pts (June 1/16)
- Class 5 drivers: 2 or more convictions within 1 year will result in classification as a "high risk" driver
- "high risk" drivers will be assessed by the DIP (Driver Improvement Program) for 3-12 month prohibition
- BC Provincial Court R V. Schull ruled that a driver need only be holding the device to be found guilty of the offence. (2013 BCPC 132 CanLII)

- As of March 1, 2018 ICBC, BC's provincial insurance agency, introduced a Driver Risk Premium (DRP) Program
- DRP will include those convicted of using an electronic device while driving
- Two convictions within a three year period could have drivers paying as much as \$2000 in additional penalties (\$740 increase of previous penalties)





Driving without Due Care

MVA s. 144(1)(a) \$368 & 6 pts Consideration \$196 & 6 pts

- with knees
- eating something that will require BOTH hands







Driving without Due Care

- not paying attention to surroundings
- reading anything, including books







Driving without Due Care

- conducting other tasks behind the wheel
- includes putting on make up and shaving







Drive while control/view obstructed MVA s.195 (1)(a) or (b) \$109 & 3 pts

 Distractions can come in many forms.
 This is not only dangerous for the driver but also for the dog.







What are the police doing to combat distracted drivers?

The Spotting Scope

This model specifically offers an adapter kit to accommodate DLSR camera. Traffic Services has incorporated a Nikon D3300 24.2 megapixel camera with a 50 (18-556) mm lens that offers a viewing distance greater than 1200 metres. (1.2 km)

Vortex Viper HD spotting scope has HD (High Density) extra-low dispersion glass for impressive resolution and colour fidelity. The XR fully multi-coated lens allows for maximum brightness in low light conditions. This is necessary for the challenging conditions officers may encounter dealing with weather on the road. The scope is fog proof and water proof.







Bluetooth-enabled Scope

- These scopes by Lasertech are the latest tool that police will have on-hand to evaluate distracted driving reduction technology.
- Units will be tested by police in varying weather and traffic conditions for usability and effectiveness.
- Scopes capture and image that can be instantly shared with other officers in the immediate area. That officer will then be able to show the image to the distracted driver.
- A pilot project is currently underway and the results will inform future decisions around usability of this technology for distracted driving prevention.





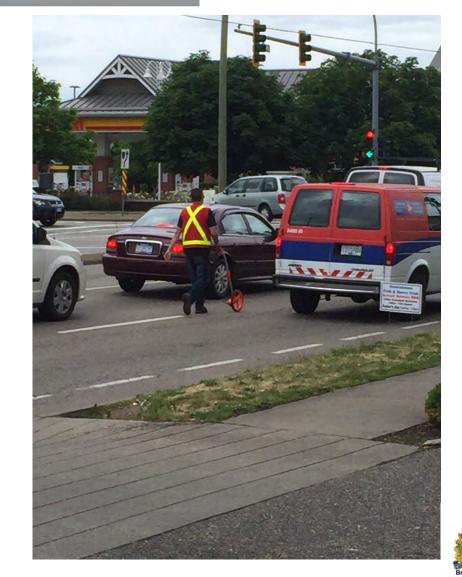


RCMP-GRC

"E" Division Traffic Services - Making British Columbia Roadways Safer



Integrated Road Safety Unit (IRSU)

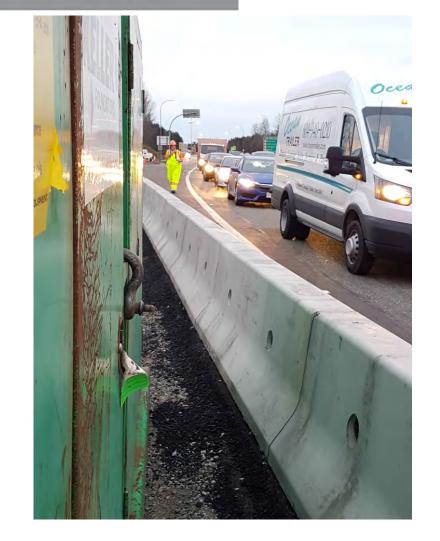








Deas Island Traffic Services









Difficulties in Policing and Tracking Distracted Driving in BC

- Actually witnessing the device in the hand of the driver (lap gazers)
- Accumulating stats for distracted driving NOT caused by electronic devices (Due care or consideration)
- Resources
- Ability to stop offenders in a safe location in a timely manner

If police are able to stop someone for using and electronic device...

- High fines tend to cause suspected violators to fight their ticket in court
- Reluctance of the Courts to impose full fine amount even on guilty verdicts. Lower fines lose deterrence value
- Using cell phones behind the wheel is widely accepted by the mainstream public (not done by "criminals")
- Vocal groups on social media etc. who believe that using your phone while stopped in traffic or at a stop sign or light should not be a ticket-able offence







Getting the message out to the motoring public via social media









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