

Online game deals with distracted driving

In an effort to fight distracted driving and raise public awareness during National Teen Driver Safety Week, Oct. 19-25, Caltrans, Office of Traffic Safety and California Highway Patrol have launched an interactive, mobile and online game called "Distraction Zone" to help educate teen drivers about safe driving.

Car crashes are the leading cause of death for 14- to 18-year-olds in the United States.

According to 2012 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, among drivers 15- to 19-years-old who were distracted in fatal crashes, nearly 1 in 5 were distracted by their phones. Speeding is also a common contributing factor in fatal crashes. In 2012, speeding was a factor in almost half (48 percent) of the crashes that killed 15- to 20-year-old drivers.

"Distraction Zone" is designed to reinforce key safe driving behaviors like avoiding distractions, being alert, and slowing down when approaching highway work zones.

Mobile versions of the game are available for download and or go online.