

Shattered Glass and Shattered Dreams

Safe driving practices ultimately determine the outcome of life or death. Driving has become such a monotonous and regular everyday normalcy for so many individuals, we often fail to associate the risks of poor driving practices. Too often, we make careless decisions on the road which can cost lives and shatter dreams. In an instant, tires on the pavement can become a vehicle in a ditch. By utilizing safe driving practices, we are able to minimize the inherent risks associated with driving and protect not only ourselves but others on the road.

A young girl, only seventeen, looked at the remnants of a series of poor decisions. Shattered glass polluted the pavement and her bloodshot eyes could barely make out the fog of the red and blue flashing lights. She felt the cold metal tighten around her wrist as she was guided into the back of a police car. Her decision to drive home after a party left eight people dead and her as the only survivor. She would live with the guilt and consequences of drunk driving for the rest of her life, but nothing could replace the souls left behind on the side of the freeway that night.

A freshly licensed sixteen year old, full of the anticipation that coincides with the freedom of the open road. His mother told him to drive safe as she watched with pride as her son embarked on his first drive alone. It had seemed like just yesterday in that same vehicle, she had brought her son home from the hospital, the joy of new life sparkling in the infants eyes. He now lay cold and lifeless. He had only looked down at his phone for a second. One second too long that he drifted off into oncoming traffic. His mother would never fully recover the loss of her only son, robbed from the world too soon to experience the fullness of life. All because he could not wait five more minutes before picking up his phone.

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Everyday hundreds of Texans are injured in motor vehicle accidents. Majority of accidents caused by preventable circumstances. Taken from the TXDOT Crash Facts 2023, “1 person was killed every 2 hours 3 minutes”¹. This may not seem like a lot, but in retrospect this is approximately 4,380 lives lost in a year in Texas alone. Before stepping behind the wheel, determine if you pose a greater risk on the road than asking a designated driver to pick you up. Before picking up your phone and answering that text, ask yourself, is it worth my life and the lives around me? Let your story change the statistics, don't let shattered glass shatter your dreams. Drive safe, not distracted.

¹ *Texas Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Facts Calendar Year 2023*,
www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/trf/crash-reports-records/2023/01.pdf. Accessed 27 Mar. 2025.