Distracted Driving

Distracted driving crashes are those where investigating law enforcement officer indicates that either inattention or a distraction in or on the vehicle was a contributing factor in the crash. Distraction is defined by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as a specific type of inattention that occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on another activity instead. Distraction is categorized into the three following types: visual (taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel), and cognitive (taking your mind off the road).

Table 35
Distracted Driving Crashes: 2006-2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change 2009-2010	Avg. Change 2006-2009
Total Distracted Driving Crashes	7,082	7,568	6,723	6,136	5,882	-4.1%	-4.3%
Fatalities	84	79	72	60	60	0.0%	-10.5%
Serious Injuries	608	680	527	490	517	5.5%	-5.9%
Visible Injuries	1,527	1,492	1,152	1,153	1,256	8.9%	-8.3%
Possible Injuries	2,800	2,822	2,413	2,284	2,316	1.4%	-6.4%
Distracted Driving Crashes as a % of All Crashes	29.2%	28.6%	26.9%	26.7%	26.1%	-2.3%	-3.0%
Distracted Driving Fatalities as a % of All Fatalities	31.5%	31.3%	31.0%	26.5%	28.7%	8.1%	-5.3%
Distracted Driving Injuries as a % of All Injuries	35.4%	36.7%	34.1%	34.5%	34.9%	1.2%	-0.8%
All Fatal and Injury Crashes	9,775	9,452	8,439	8,060	8,124	0.8%	-6.2%
Distracted Fatal/Injury Crashes	3,341	3,342	2,781	2,647	2,673	1.0%	-7.2%
% DistractedDriving	34.2%	35.4%	33.0%	32.8%	32.9%	0.2%	-1.2%
Distracted Driving Fatality and Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Of Travel	4.53	4.79	3.92	3.56	3.71	4.1%	-7.2%

Distracted driving crashes made up 26% of all crashes in 2010 and were responsible for 29% of all fatalities. While 68 % of all distracted driving crashes occurred on urban roadways, 82% of the fatal distracted driving crashes occurred on rural roadways.

While only 25% of all distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle, 63% of fatal distracted driving crashes involved a single vehicle.

The economic cost of crashes involving distracted driving was nearly $775.6 million dollars in 2010. This represents 32% of the total costs of Idaho crashes (as shown in Table 4).