



Someone is Waiting for You.

**SLOW DOWN. PAY ATTENTION.
ARRIVE SAFE.**



5-Minutes for Safety

- Today I'm not going to bring out the traffic safety fact book.
- Instead, I'm going to ask each of you to pull out your virtual family photo album or maybe take a peek at your social media feed, if you have one. You probably see a lot of people in both those places. And while there might be exceptions, you probably have meaningful relationships with most of them.
- This may or may not surprise you, but a study by Columbia University a few years back showed that the average person knows approximately 600 to 611 people by name – and your friend number on social media might be even higher. And among those hundreds of people, it's estimated that you have significant relationships with about 150 of them including your family members, old classmates, neighbors and work colleagues.
 - These are the people who care about you. These are the people waiting for your safe arrival every time you get behind the wheel.
- Now picture this: Those 150 people gathered together in one place once. And they aren't smiling. In fact, a lot of them are grief-stricken and crying.
- But you aren't there. You've died in a crash caused by distracted driving or excessive speed. And their lives are shattered.

- Think about that. Is it worth all that heartache for your loved ones and friends to send a text while you're driving or feel like you're getting somewhere faster?
- Distracted driving and excessive speed remain major killers on Minnesota's roadways.
 - From 2019–2024, distraction contributed to about 1 in 11 crashes in Minnesota each year, resulting in approximately 30 deaths and over 140 serious injuries.
- This month (April) is Distracted Driving Awareness Month when we focus on the devastating impacts of distracted driving, often coupled with excessive speed. Distractions include texting, calling, app use, eating, or anything that takes your eyes, hands, or mind off driving.
- Now think again about those 150 people you matter most to. What would happen to their lives if you died in a crash? Of course they'd experience tremendous grief, but loss goes far deeper and lasts forever. For family members, your crash death could mean economic hardship. For co-workers, valuable skills and knowledge would be lost – not to mention everyone's favorite lunchtime storyteller. Even pets, who eagerly await you at the end of each day, experience lasting effects of the loss of the person who loved and cared for them.
- The next time you get behind the wheel, think about someone who's expecting you – on the job, for dinner, in the daycare pickup line. Then drive like it matters to you, because it matters to them. Put your phone away. Keep your hands on the wheel and mind on your driving. Watch your speed. What you do matters, because Someone Is Waiting for You.