

POINTS OF VIEW

Texting and driving effects everyone. It can destroy families, friends, and lives. Here are just 3 points of view from those how have been touched by this destructive act.

REGGIE SHAW

While driving near Logan 19 year old Reggie Shaw was texting and driving. He crossed over the center line just enough to bump the car containing James Furaro, 38, and his passenger, Keith P. O'Dell, 50. This bump lead to a catastrophic line of events where James and Keith were killed instantly.

In just seconds the lives of more than 3 families were changed forever. "I didn't mean to hurt anyone,"

Reggie states in tears, now he faces jail time. The initial bump caused the car to spin sideways and then it was t-boned by another truck making it fly into a ditch. When the officer arrived on the scene he asked Reggie if there was anything out of the ordinary occurred before the accident, to which he replied

no. Later while driving Reggie to the hospital, the officer noticed that he was texting in the back of his squad car, this sparked his curiosity. It was found that Reggie was sending a text at the moment that he was crossing over the middle line. At first Reggie and his lawyer fought this idea but after being

called home early from an LDS mission to face the families of those who died he said "I decided I've got to do whatever it takes to make

this come to an end. If there was anything I could do — spend a year in jail, two years in jail, whatever — I'd do it." After pleading guilty, he faced 2 counts of negligent homicide. His sentence included 30 days in prison and 200 hours of community service. He was also asked to speak at schools



about the dangers of texting and driving. In February of 2009 he spoke before the state about changing the law dealing with texting and driving. This law was quickly changed and made the strictest in the nation. It includes a felony, \$10,000 fine, and up to 15 years in prison. ■



TAYLOR SAUER

"I can't discuss this matter now. Driving and Facebooking is not safe!" The last words posted up on Facebook before 18 year old Taylor Sauer crashed into the back of a semi and was killed.



Taylor was a student at Utah State University. She was studying to become a

teacher. Sadly her opportunity to teach came thru her death.

She was traveling home one weekend to visit her family. She was texting and using Facebook, she didn't see the semi traveling at 15mph in front of her. She crashed

into the back of it traveling at 80 mph. Taylor was killed



instantly. When police investigated the accident they found no skid marks. This means

that Taylor didn't even apply her brakes. Her last post was sent to her friend Mike; he said that he blames himself for her death. Her parents were devastated. But instead of sitting back and wallowing they decided to take this story and teach others about the dangerous of texting and driving. ■

DR. CRAIG GROSE

“Ya know, it's the greatest part of my job to call parents and tell them that their daughter was killed on her way home in a car accident.” The sarcasm and sadness were prominent in Dr. Grose's voice. Criag Grose is one of only a few amazing doctors who works in the Fillmore Utah hospital. It is



called a “Critical Access Hospital” that means that it is very small only 6 beds. Designed for extreme emergencies along I-15 and surrounding areas. “I see about a rollover a day” he said and about 25% of those are caused by texting and driving. On that section of the freeway the speed limit is 75, at that speed if involved in an accident a car will

roll about 3 times. If the speed was at 82 the number of rolls climbs to 5. Craig continues to describe how even when wearing a seat belt you can still be thrown from a vehicle at that speed. "It is so dangerous to look away from the road especially to focus on something else like texting.



And eight degree sudden turn at 80 mph can send you rolling." Craig says, many times people will look down at their phone and then start drifting. When they realize they are drifting they over correct and they go flying. He recalls a story of when a young teen girl traveling home from school

who died likely from texting and driving, her parents never had the chance to say goodbye. He says that her father called frequently for a month in tears

asking, if there was anything he could have done to save his little girl. These accidents not only occur on the freeway. He told another story involving a local teen who was

texting and rear ended a lady pulling into a gas station. The ladies neck was snapped in an instant but luckily she lived. But for the rest of her life she will be suffering because of neck pains. "The effects of texting and driving are lifetime" he says "It will destroy you and those who you love." ■

TEXTING KILLS