

STAY SAFE....ARRIVE ALIVE

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS

Please understand this message, It is illegal in the state of Maine to text and drive and it is illegal to be under the influence of alcohol and drive.

Now that we know that, there is a little more to it. When operating a motor vehicle, we as the driver need to be aware how important it is to pay attention to what we are doing at all times. We also need to be aware of our surroundings, such as wildlife, people walking, other drivers etc. We all are in a rush from time to time. I think it is a good rule for yourself to always add 15 minutes to your travel time to reach your destination. This will help with speeding, construction delays, etc. Think about this, what if? The outcome may not be the same for everyone.

You are one decision away to ruining lives. Whether it be you and your family or someone else's. Things can be replaced people can't.

If you need to send a message to someone, please pull over safely. If something falls and you need to pick it up, please pull over safely. If your phone rings, let them leave a message and you can listen to it when you are pulled over safely.

If you have been drinking alcohol, please ride with a responsible sober person.

If you are running late, please do not speed. Even if you will be in trouble.

We all mean something to somebody. Please don't take that away from them.

I use the term **ALL** drivers because in the story I am about to tell you seems to be stereotypical to some, of me being a teen driver, but yet I am the victim of a distracted driver that is over 30 years old. Fortunately, I am safe and alive!

One cloudy morning in November I was going to school. I had to leave a little early as my friends and I were throwing a little party for one of our teachers. 10 minutes into my trip I noticed coming around the corner a car on my side of the road! I slowed down, but the car coming toward me was not! I looked in my rearview mirror and noticed a car behind (It was my English teacher). I thought to myself “ what am I to do? This person is not getting out of my way and not slowing down!” I took it upon myself to go around the car, switching to go on the other side of the road to avoid a head on collision. As I did this, the other driver noticed he was in the wrong lane and jerked his wheel back into the right lane, hitting my passenger door, pushing my car into the ditch and then hitting me head on. I remember being so scared, the noise of glass breaking, the noise of airbags going off, and the noise of metal crushing. After a few minutes of realizing I was alive, I was able to find my phone and call my parents. The teacher behind me came and held my hand. I can remember thinking “What was the other driver doing? Texting, playing with the radio, did something fall on the floor and he was picking it up? Was it a medical condition? Was he drunk/or on drugs? Accidents can leave you hanging. As for me, I still don't know what the other driver was distracted with.

The aftermath, I had to go to the hospital by ambulance, I had a cut above my eye that was bleeding, I had many bruises, bumps, and abrasions, after the adrenalin wore down I realized I was in a lot of pain. As I was resting, my mind would not stop replaying the accident over and over. Any loud noises brought it back, riding in a vehicle, brought it back, hearing about other accidents, brought it back. I am so thankful that I am safe and alive!

I am still healing as of today. I have had intense Physical Therapy to align my body that will never be 100 percent the way it was. The cost of this accident is extensive, physically, emotionally, and financially. Such as fear of driving (it took me several months to get behind the wheel of a vehicle), being upset thinking of the impact, the toll it took on my family (financially and emotionally), medical bills, cost of gas to get to the doctors, time lost from work, time lost from school (being my senior year in high school, I missed so much and was physically unable to participate in my last dance routine) and no car, as it was a total loss. As I mentioned before, I am thankful to be safe and alive.

Although, I don't know anything about the other driver's injuries, I do know that he is alive.

The message I want to get across to ALL drivers you ask?

****PLEASE BE DILIGENT WHEN DRIVING ON OUR ROADWAYS****

