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Tragedies Continue

A quiet and peaceful night is disrupted by the sound of screeching tires and loud destruction, the sound of sirens followed a few minutes later. A driver was too distracted on his phone to realize he was in the wrong lane, until the last second. That driver noticed and swerved from an oncoming car, only to catch a curb, and roll his car three times, before ramming a tree. An only child, his parents loved him. He was the center of their universe. The mother killed herself 5 months later because she was mentally ill. The father never remarried and lived alone until his death. The deceased was a young man, who had his life taken away from him by one poor choice. The guy you enjoyed exchanging stories with, now will never talk again. The nicest guy you'll meet, overtaken by shadows. A top kid in his class, he was very smart. Now he will be remembered as a statistic. Driving distracted ruins families across America, don't let it destroy yours.

Some rules are embedded in our heads. Rules like always wear a seatbelt, always have your hands on the wheel, pay attention to the road, and never drink and drive. Yet, those last two rules are ignored and forgotten. It seems like every week another death could have been prevented. Another family that lost for no reason, another story that a journalist doesn't want to write, and another door an officer has to knock on. Everyone knows someone

who have been affected by these accidents. Why do these tragedies continue to happen, when we as a society of high school students realize how dangerous it is to be distracted or drunk while driving?

All high schoolers went through the programs and driving schools. Yet these tragedies continue to happen. The ads on television are ignored, until someone you know dies. Hearing that someone you know died, and wondering what they were thinking. They were at your house, they met your parents, and now they left a scar. The scar will last forever because death lasts forever, and death is unforgettable.

The only solution to this problem is education. The repeated stamping of the idea that distracted and drunk driving is unacceptable and leads to death. It has come to a point where laws have been created to prevent the driver from touching their phones while driving. There needs to more ads and more people spreading the word. It is easy to say, but its a group effort. It is a local effort, a statewide effort, a national effort. It all starts with you. Realizing what needs to be changed and changing it. Read about the devastation that it causes families. Read from the survivors and learn from them. Sometimes the best advice comes from the people who have been in these situations. 2,526 people, 15 to 19 years old, were killed by distracted driving in 2017 (U.S. Department of Transportation). Make good choices not poor ones, and don't become another statistic.

“In a split second, you could ruin your future, injure or kill others, and tear a hole in the heart of everyone you love.”

-Sharon Heit, mother of texting while driving victim