

Split Second Distractions, Lifelong Consequences

Owen- December 7th, 2017 11:38 pm

My mind started accelerating at a speed I couldn't comprehend. My heart and lungs were working overtime just to keep my body afloat. It became normal for my father to come home around 10:30 from work as he became busy trying to finish a project but never this late. I tried my hardest to keep myself awake waiting for my father's arrival but my ten-year-old self couldn't. With tears streaming down my face I decided to send a text to my father reading, "I love you dad, get home safe please". As I hit send I convinced myself that it would be ok, that my text became a shield for my father preventing him from any danger that tried to steal him from me. As I fell into the false reality of my dreams my worst nightmares became a new reality that I would never be able to escape.

Matthew- December 7th, 2017 10:30 pm

"Finally!", I said to my crew after we had completed one of our largest projects yet. Over a month of work traveling back and forth, 70,000 square feet of tile was finally laid to perfection. I reached in my pocket for my phone glancing at the time which said 10:30! I had to return home for Owen. He never slept well when I wasn't home and I always felt awful working late so I cleaned up quickly and told my crew again " Good work guys drive home safely take the day off tomorrow". It wasn't ever normal for me to be in a rush, but tonight I was because of Owen. I couldn't wait to see him and all I could think about was what we would accomplish on our day off...

Matthew- December 7th, 2017 11:40pm

The drive was going well as I had become accustomed to the long haul to and from work every day. As the music tuned out every thought in my mind, my phone buzzed the cupholder and grabbed my attention. It wasn't regular of me to check my phone while driving but this late at night with no one on the road it couldn't hurt. Besides who could be texting me at 11:40 at night I thought. My eyes trailed from the road to my phone glancing for a split second on who had texted me and then back to the road. It was Owen, not being able to read what he said. I went back for a second glance. This split-second decision where I valued my phone more than my life and the task at hand changed my life forever. The black ice manipulated my car in an instant leaving me helpless with no control. My fate was decided and I started to spin violently into a hole I couldn't escape. Tires screeched, brakes clamped shut, but the car wouldn't stop and the only thing on my mind was Owen.

Owen- December 8th, 2017 7:59am

The morning started like every other except it wasn't I was soon to find out. My father always had a rule for me to wait until 8 until I could wake him up because I was always up at the crack of dawn. As I counted the seconds until the clock struck 8 I inched closer to my door eagerly waiting to see my father and plan the day. It was time, I slid across the hall into my father's room where I ran and jumped onto the memory foam mattress. Empty, maybe he had gone downstairs and started breakfast, I made my way to the kitchen, and to my surprise it was vacant. I swiveled my head as my heart began to race and peered through the glass panes toward the driveway to find it empty again. My heart was pounding through my chest as I reached for my phone in my pocket, the text from my father was received but no answer. I immediately called him to see where he was. " Ring...", again I found my mind racing and looking for answers, "Ring..." still no answer but it was only the second time he was bound to answer any

second. A third ring... four, five. "Hi you have reached the voicemail of Matthew Spera sorry I missed your call I will get back to you as soon as I can". The air quickly escaped the room leaving me alone and in a state of shock. What had happened to him, where could he be? The tears started to run down my face with no sign of being controlled, my mind went blank not knowing what to do.

Owen- December 9th , 2017 10:30 am

He's gone, my father had slid off the road at approximately 11:40 at night and wrapped the car around a tree without any chance of coming home, ever. Yesterday had dragged on to be one of the longest days of my life not knowing what happened or what to do. Because of this, I look towards my future learning lessons from everything that happens to me in life. When behind the wheel your focus should undoubtedly be on the road so that distracted and impaired driving cannot take your father like it did mine.