



RALSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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[U Drive. U Text. U Pay. Post Mobilization Information](#)

The Ralston Police Department participated in the U Drive, U Text, U Pay traffic initiative from April 1 through April 8, 2024. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of the dangers of Distracted Driving in Nebraska. Funds for additional enforcement were provided by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Transportation – Highway Safety Office. During that time period, RPD officers issued 42 citations and contacted 71 drivers on traffic stops. Along with the 42 citations issued, two drivers were arrested for DUI during this time.

There were 3,924 drivers involved in distracted driving crashes in Nebraska in 2020. 233 people lost their lives in traffic crashes and 19 of those fatalities were due to a distracted driving crash. 7,386 Nebraskan's were seriously injured in a distracted driving crash in the past five years. According to NHTSA, between 2012 and 2019, 26,004 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver. While fatalities from motor-vehicle crashes decreased slightly from 2018, distraction-related fatalities increased by 10%. NHTSA also reported that the number of deaths linked to driver distraction was 3,142 nationwide, or almost 9% of all fatalities in 2019. This represents a 10% increase over the year 2018, or 284 more fatalities. The distraction figure was the largest increase in causes of traffic deaths reported for 2019.

Distracted driving is extremely dangerous and leads to thousands of deaths in the U.S. every year. Next time you think about checking your phone when you're driving, remember you are risking your life and the lives of everyone else on the road. The text message, social media update, email can wait until you arrive at your destination.