

# ARRIVE ALIVE

DRIVING DISTRACTIONS | BCoFD

2020 FIREFIGHTER  
**SAFETY**  
STAND DOWN



Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on a cellular phone or radio, eating, drinking, conversing with other passengers, manipulating switches or sirens and adjusting entertainment or navigation devices. Any non-driving activity we engage in is a potential distraction and increases our risk of crashing. In our profession, arriving to an incident scene safely is VITAL to the success of our mission. WE CANNOT HELP OTHERS IF WE DON'T GET THERE!

***Safe driving requires your undivided attention***

## **Crew Chatter & Behavior**

Is the interior of your cab like a rave or rodeo ring? Radio discipline is a concept that can be extended to general communication discipline while the apparatus is in motion. Prioritize and minimize chatter, especially when using headsets.

## **Electronic Devices**

Set the talkgroup and radio volume prior to moving the vehicle. Allow the officer or member in the front passenger seat to manipulate the radio and refrain from the use of hand-held smart phones or other devices while driving. The OIC/front passenger seat member should refrain from the use of electronic devices unless operationally necessary in order to act as the driver's second set of eyes. Drivers should consider the use of a radio strap while driving and the potential for it to slip off of your shoulder and/or limit your mobility.

## **Knowledge of the First Due**

Drivers should know their general route before starting a response. Relying solely on the directions provided by an electronic device or the OIC results in uncertainty, lack of focus on driving, and distraction that ends with your apparatus out of position or involved in a collision.

## **Unsecured Items/Equipment**

The dashboard, doghouse, and floorboard should not serve as a receptacle for loose items within the apparatus cab. Items must have a secure place to "ride", just as the members do. The driver should not be forced to catch sliding binders, helmets, water bottles, etc. while driving. These loose items also become a projectile in a crash.