

Security Safety Tip of the Month

Traffic Safety

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Traffic Safety

As the summer months quickly approach and children are out of school, it is a good reminder for all of us to drive with extra caution and awareness. This time of year brings our neighborhood kids, families, and visitors to the parks, pool, tennis and equestrian areas, and sometimes street corners to sell the summertime favorite - lemonade. The primary responsibility of a driver is to operate a motor vehicle safely and the task of driving requires our full attention and focus. This is arguably more heighten when driving in residential areas due to all the potential issues that could arise (i.e.: vehicles backing from driveways, children playing, horses crossing, and limited visibility due to road construction, vegetation, or parked vehicles along the roadway edge).

Although some of the more common violations in our community might not result in serious injuries, they still have a major impact on the overall safety of residents and visitors alike. Since the streets within Nellie Gail are public roadways, all of the traffic laws are to be followed and subject to citation.

Some of the more common violations of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), within residential streets like Nellie Gail, include:

- Unsafe speed for conditions (22350 CVC)
- Traveling above the posted speed limit or above the 25 MPH limit in residential zones (22352 CVC)
- Failure to completely stop for stop signs (22450 CVC)
- Failure to yield to pedestrians (21950 CVC)
- Driving while intoxicated (23152 CVC)
- Driving while distracted (23123 and 23124 CVC)

Distracted driving is a term that is used to cover a variety of driving behaviors. Although cell phone usage and texting while driving are the most common, anything that diverts attention or takes your mind and eyes off the road can be considered distracted driving (i.e.: drinking coffee, changing the radio station, managing children, reaching for something, personal grooming, or reading). According to the California Highway Patrol, drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a collision if they text while driving and the fine for a first-time offense is \$162, plus fees.

Whether it is driving while distracted, or violating any of the traffic laws, any offense has the potential to cause injury and property damage. We urge everyone to obey the laws and help ensure a safe summer for all.