

Young Drivers at Work Workshop

Activity Seven: Distractions

Mobile Phone Press Report 1

A driver who sent and received several texts before hitting and killing another motorist was found guilty today of causing death by dangerous driving.

Phone records show that she sent and received the messages before driving into the back of a stationary car at 70mph, killing its driver, who had stopped to deal with a burst tyre. The victim was pronounced dead from a brain injury after his car was forced off the road and into a wall.

The court heard that the driver had been driving for two hours after a day's work on a dark, rainy evening. The driver, who wept while giving evidence, said she had thought there were times when it was safe and normal to use a phone while driving, telling the court "I didn't think I should be chatting on the phone when it was busy on the road, but in the right conditions, it was safe." She added "I slow down" when sending texts which I can easily do without taking my eyes off the road. "

The driver showed genuine regret for what had happened, saying "I can't describe how bad I feel. I just feel terrible and I can't really imagine how the family must feel. I'm so sorry"

Today, a jury found the driver guilty of causing death by dangerous driving. As the unanimous verdict was read out, the driver broke down in tears. In the public gallery, the family wept as the Judge granted bail pending sentencing. The Judge told the driver she would almost certainly receive a prison sentence, and banned her from driving while on bail.



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Mobile Phone Press Report 2

A van driver has been convicted for a fatal crash he caused after veering onto the wrong side of the road moments after ending a mobile call with his boss.

A car driver was killed and two people were injured in a five car pile-up caused by the van crossing the centre line in the road and clipping a car which was in a line of oncoming traffic. The van driver had also been speeding, doing 53 mph on a stretch of single carriageway road which had a 40 mph limit.

The driver who died was a 45 year old mother of two teenagers. In a statement, her family said "She was a wonderful mother who has been taken from us so cruelly. Nothing can ever bring her back, and no words can express how much we all miss her".

The judge told the driver it was an extremely serious offence with devastating consequences, and a custodial sentence was inevitable.

