Program Highlights Dangers of Distracted Driving

(KTNC) - Automobile crashes are the number one killer of teens in the United States, and distractions add to the dangers for young drivers. One of the most common distractions drivers face today is cellular phones and other mobile devices.

Students from Falls City Public and Sacred Heart Schools learned about the dangers of distracted driving during a graphic presentation last week at Falls City High School.

Rob Reynolds gave the presentation. He is the founder of the Cady Anne Reynolds Alliance for Safer Teen Driving. He started the organization in 2008 after his 16-year-old daughter was killed when a distracted driver ran a red light and hit the car she was driving. (play audio :19) Reynolds compares the risk associated with talking on a cell phone while driving to that of driving while drunk. (play audio :43)

Texting while driving increases the risk of an accident more than just talking on a cell phones, and Reynolds explained even "hands-free" devices are dangerous. Reynolds says it is not safe to use cellular phones at all while driving, yet 10-to-12 percent of drivers are using their cell phones at any one time.

He says there are a couple things he wants kids to take from his presentation. (play audio :37) Reynolds' program included a graphic British public service announcement about the risk of distracted driving, and video footage of fatal accidents caused by distracted drivers. (play audio :40) To learn more about the CAR Alliance for Safer Teen Driving, or to schedule a presentation, go online to saferteendriving.org.

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