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**Police to crack down on drivers who violate new cell phone use regulations**

Oak Park Police say they will aggressively enforce a [new state law](#) set to go into effect January 1 that places strict guidelines on texting and calling from a cell phone while driving.

Under the new state regulations, motorists will be prohibited from using cell or *smart* phones to compose, send or read electronic messages while driving. Talking on a cell phone while driving through a school or construction speed zone also will be a violation come Jan.

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"Using a cell phone to talk or text while driving creates a distraction that puts everyone at risk," said Oak Park Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley. "Drivers need to concentrate on driving and not their latest e-mail, tweet or call. Paying attention while driving is especially important in a community like Oak Park where walking routes to schools cross major thoroughfares."

The new law does not apply to using a cell phone that is in hands-free or voice-activated mode. [Click here](#) to read the text of the new law.

For more information on the Oak Park Police Department, visit [www.oak-park.us/police](http://www.oak-park.us/police).

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