



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
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21 Citations Issued for Hands-Free Cell Phone Violations

On November 12, 2025, officers cited 21 drivers for violating California's hands-free cell phone law during a distracted driving enforcement operation. "Despite repeated efforts to warn drivers about the hands-free cell phone law, some drivers continue to use their phones while operating a vehicle," Officer Derek Neece said. "Our ultimate goal is to change behaviors that help make our roads safer."

California has enforced distracted driving laws since 2008. Under current law, drivers cannot hold a phone or any electronic device while driving. This includes talking, texting, or using apps. Using a handheld cell phone while driving can result in a fine. A second offense within 36 months of a prior conviction adds a point to the driver's record.

If you need to make a call or set up directions, pull over to a safe location first. Before you start driving, silence your phone or place it somewhere out of reach.

This enforcement effort was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

