

# THE ADVENTURES OF THE SAFETY FRIENDS



BUCKLE  
UP

PHONE  
DOWN

Congratulations! You've got a Third Edition copy of MoDOT's "The Adventures of The Safety Friends" comic book. This comic book was created especially for our friends who drive in or travel through our state.

As you flip these pages, you'll learn how Wonder Click and Safe Ride patrol the city of Safeville to help people avoid crashes and stay safe. This comic book also features fun exercises and important information about how you, your family and your friends can stay safe.

MoDOT's mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that is safe, innovative, reliable and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri. Just like Wonder Click and Safe Ride, we work to keep our citizens and employees safe as they travel our state.

We hope you have as much fun reading about The Safety Friends and doing the fun exercises as our team did in creating the comic book!

**HAPPY READING, AND BE SAFE.**





Welcome to Safeville!

The citizens of every city in the world will tell you that their heroes are the best.

The strongest.

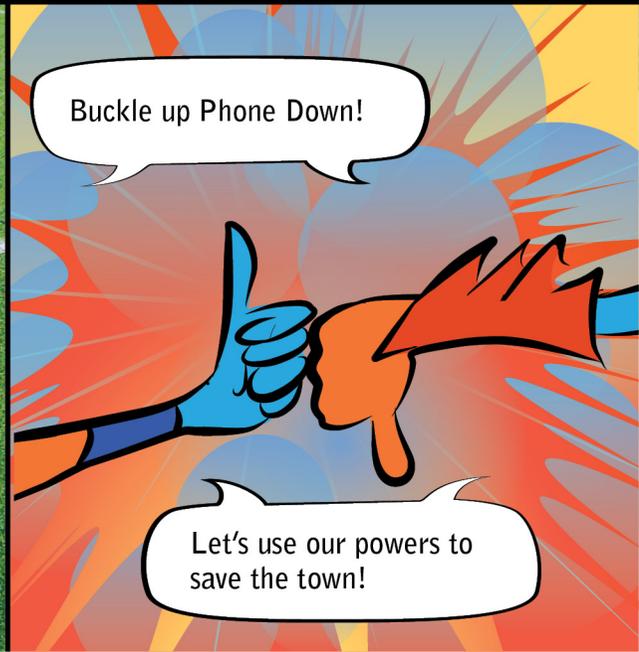
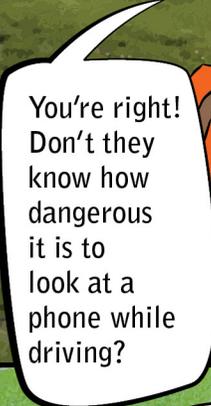
The bravest.



If you ask anyone in Safeville, they will tell you without missing a beat



that the best, bravest, strongest and safest hero team is their very own  
**SAFETY FRIENDS!**





With their safety powers activated, WONDER CLICK and SAFE RIDE are THE SAFETY FRIENDS!

Wow! There sure are a lot of cars driving around the city today.



I just made a quick lap around the city. Every adult in Safeville is currently texting and driving! This is terrible. If we don't do something quick, they are going to have to rename our town Crashville!



Two cars are about to crash on Main Street! Quick, Safe Ride. We haven't a moment to lose! I'll take the blue car. You stop the truck!

On my way, Wonder Click!

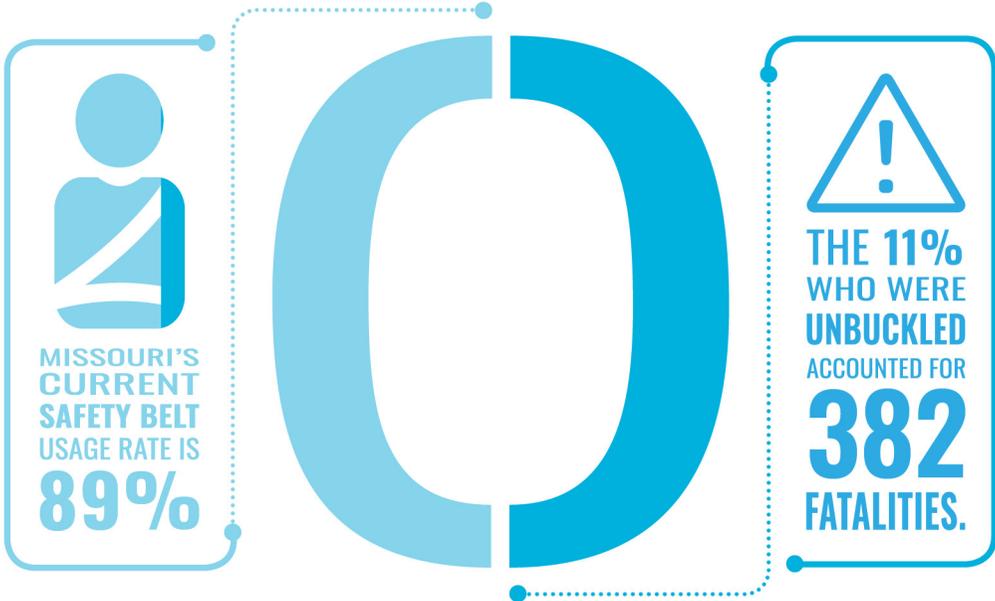


Will our heroes make it in time to stop the crash? What is causing all the adults to be glued to their phones while driving? Will they have to rename the town Crashville? Find out after this advertisement!



## Safety Belt Use

Help Missouri move **TOWARD ZERO DEATHS**



If everyone had buckled up, an estimated 230 people would still be alive.

### MISSOURI STATEWIDE

#### Vehicle Occupants



**2022**

721 Killed  
60% Unbelted

#### Teens (15-19)



**2022**

78 Killed  
59% Unbelted

#### Pickup

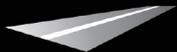


**2022**

144 Killed  
75% Unbelted



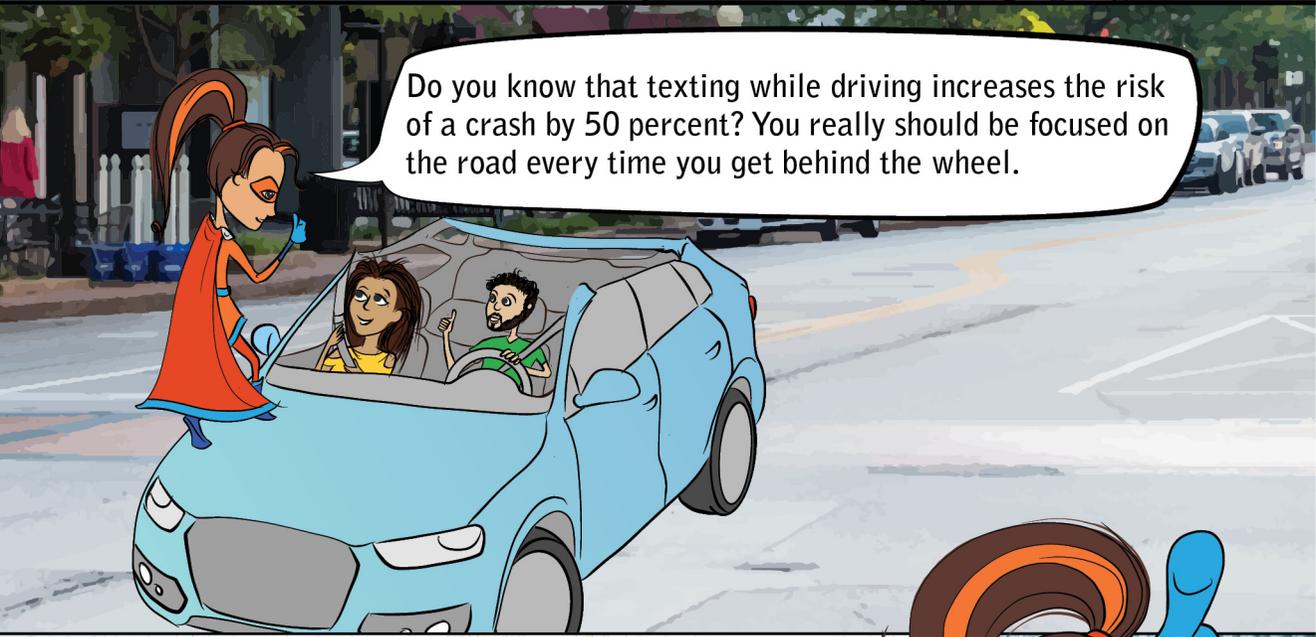
Missouri Coalition  
for Roadway Safety



Data Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Excuse me, sir. You need to put the phone down and focus on the road! You are about to run into that truck heading this way!



Do you know that texting while driving increases the risk of a crash by 50 percent? You really should be focused on the road every time you get behind the wheel.



And miss, you also need to remember to buckle up! Seat belts save lives. Make sure you are wearing yours every time you are in a vehicle. Even if you aren't driving.

Thank you, Wonder Click! I don't know what I was thinking!

So I guess I drive a convertible now. COOL!

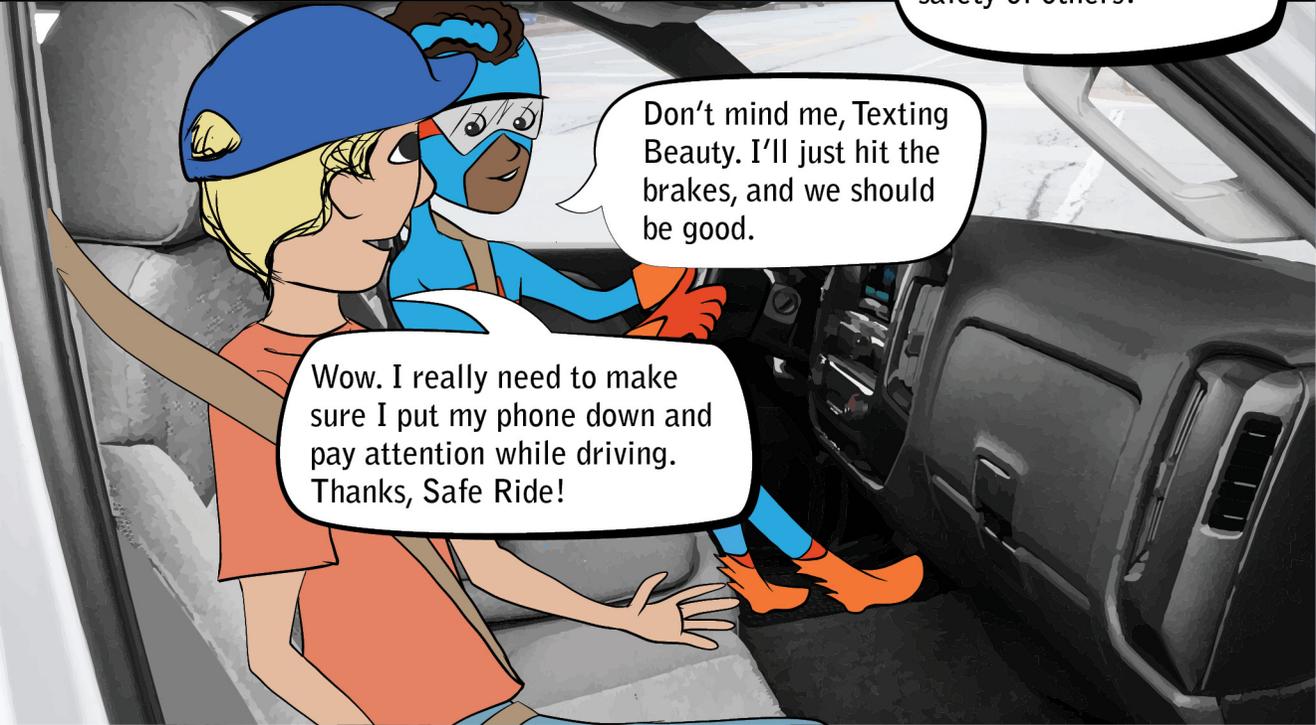


Come on, man! Are you really texting while driving? Hello? HELLO?!?!? You're about to crash into a car!

Holy texting terror! It's like this guy is being hypnotized by his phone!



Do you know that when you text and drive, you are 23 times more likely to be in a critical incident? No text, tweet, post or selfie is worth risking your safety or the safety of others!



Don't mind me, Texting Beauty. I'll just hit the brakes, and we should be good.

Wow. I really need to make sure I put my phone down and pay attention while driving. Thanks, Safe Ride!

Later that day...

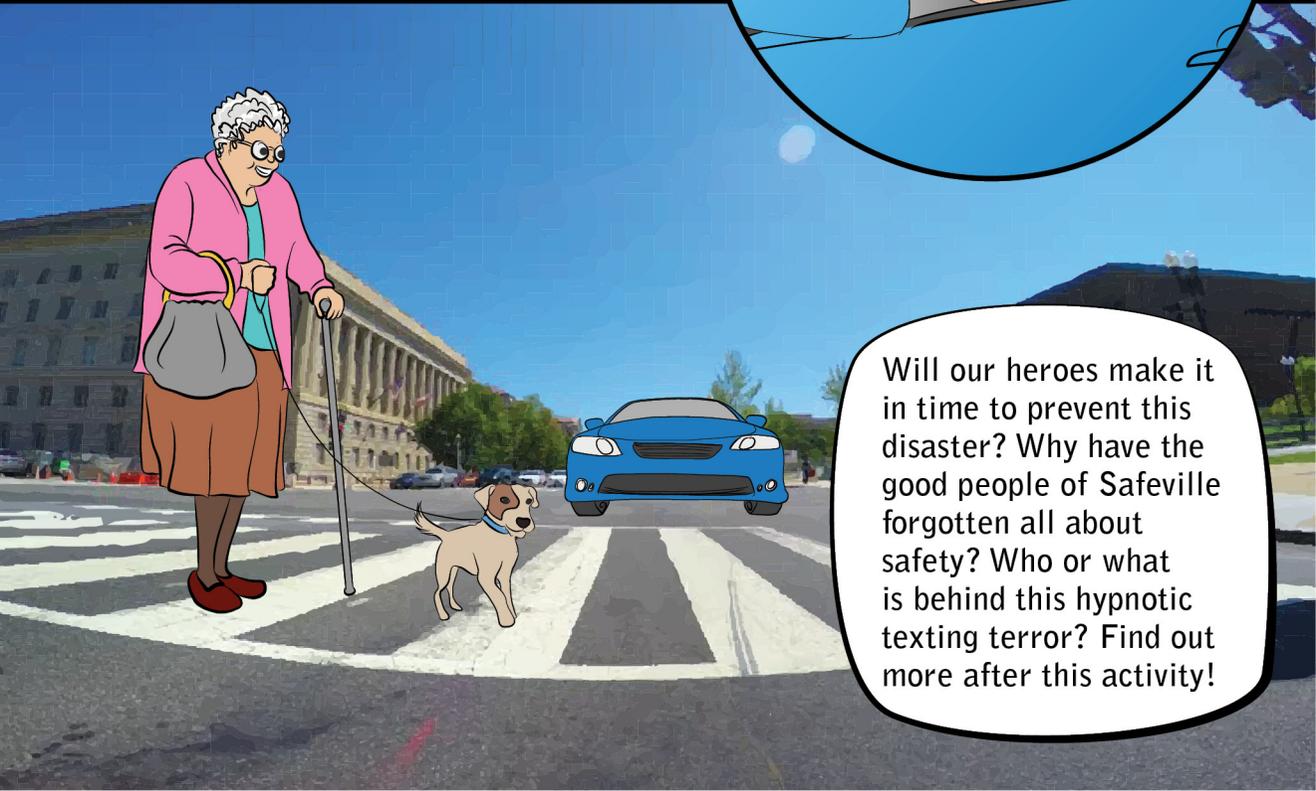
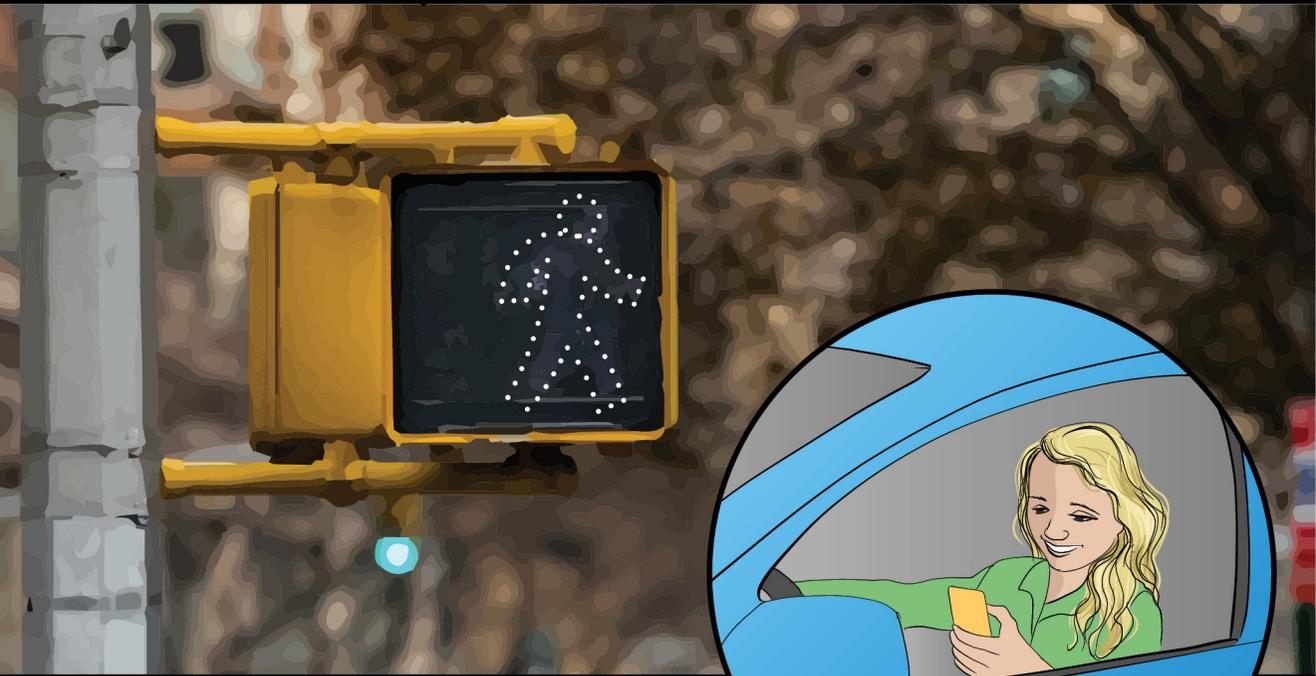
Good grief! So far today, I've stopped eight texting drivers from crashing!

I just stopped my tenth texting driver. This isn't like the people of Safeville. They know better than to text and drive. And can you believe I have had to remind five people of the importance of seat belt use? Something is very wrong, Safe Ride.



PUSH BUTTON

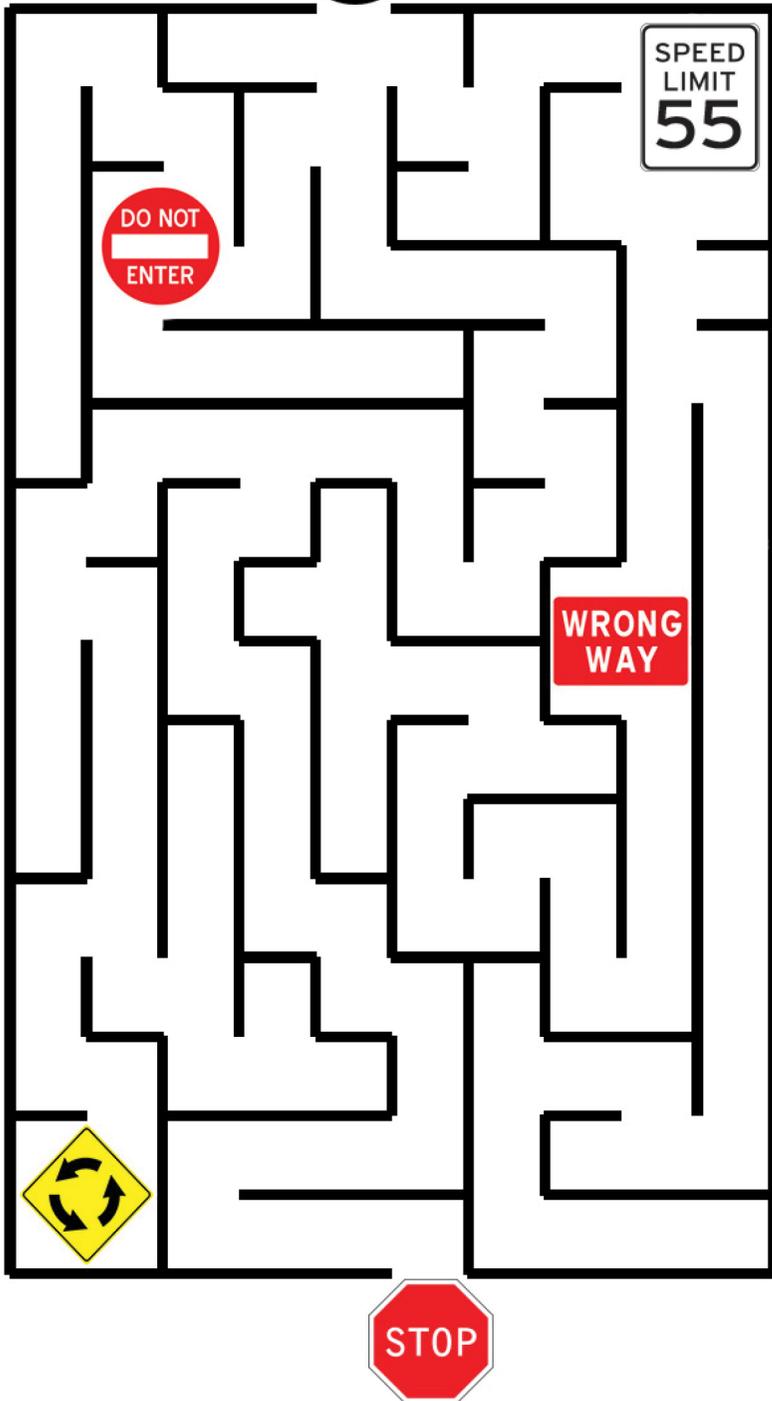
Meanwhile, across town...



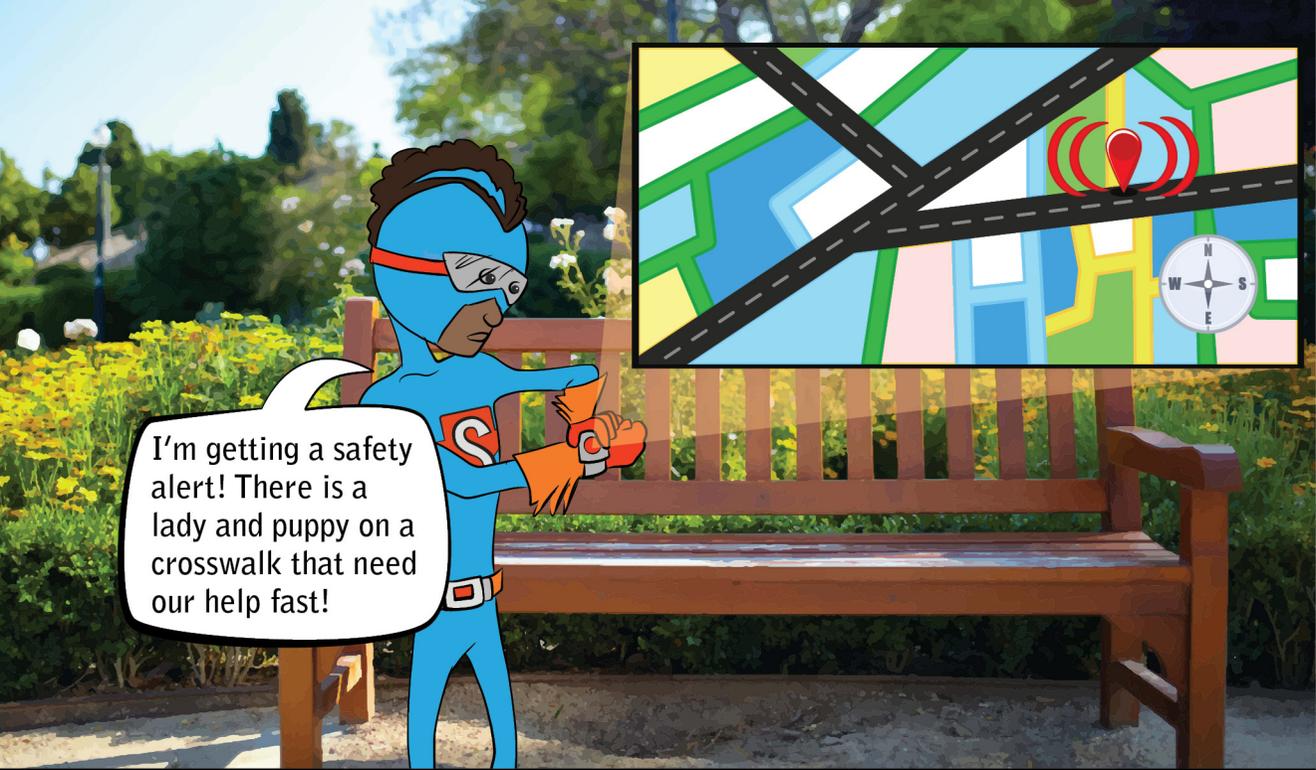
Will our heroes make it in time to prevent this disaster? Why have the good people of Safeville forgotten all about safety? Who or what is behind this hypnotic texting terror? Find out more after this activity!

GO

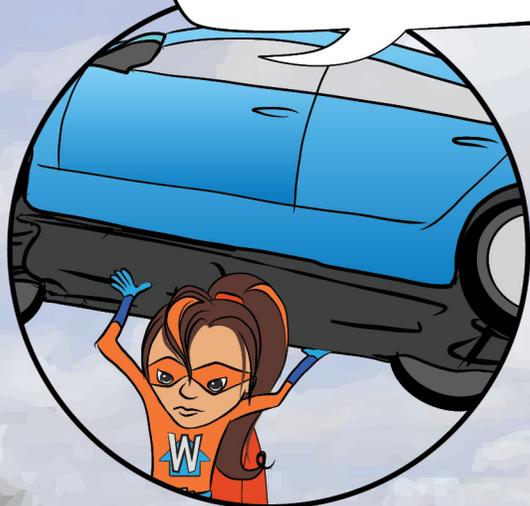
Time to take  
the challenge!



Congratulations!  
You made it safely out  
of the maze.



My car is flying! MY CAR IS FLYING!! This is NOT supposed to happen!



Thank you, young man!  
Such a gentleman  
helping me and Mr.  
Paws cross the road.





Something is going on here, Wonder Click. Everyone seems hypnotized by their phones!

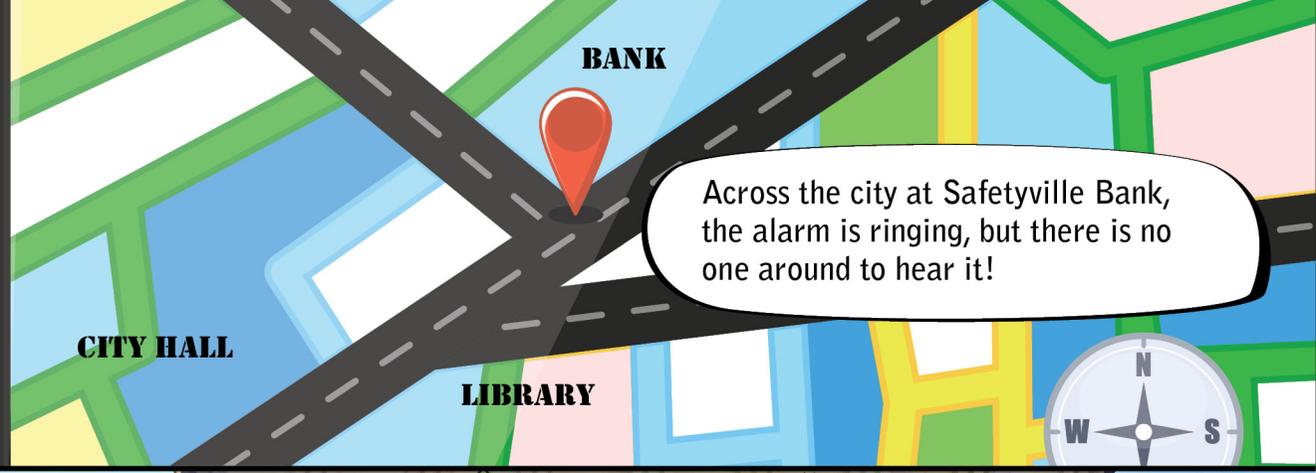
I know! Don't they get the dangers of distracted driving? Even if they look at their phone for five seconds while driving 55 mph, they will travel the length of a football field pretty much blindfolded!



With this many people hypno-texting and driving, this almost seems like the work of...



THE TEXTER!



Across the city at Safetyville Bank, the alarm is ringing, but there is no one around to hear it!



Hahahahaha! While the city is texting the day away, I will be getting RICH!!

Not so fast, Texter!

Your terrible texting tactics are being terminated, Texter! Hope you like trading your CELL phone for a jail CELL!



I don't think I am ready to head to jail just yet, Safety Friends! I think one last group message is in order!

Hahahahaha!

What did the Texter just text? Who is in this group message? Will this text create more turmoil for our heroes? Find out after this advertisement!

# BUCKLE UP ⇄ PHONE DOWN

## The Dangers of Using **CELLPHONES** While Driving

**NEARLY  
9 in 10  
PEOPLE  
ENGAGE IN  
SMARTPHONE  
ACTIVITIES  
WHILE DRIVING.**

(AT&T)

DISTRACTED DRIVING IS A LEADING CAUSE OF CRASHES IN MISSOURI.



From 2013-2022, there were nearly 200,000 distracted driving-related crashes in Missouri, resulting in at least 800 fatalities.

### DISTRACTED DRIVING FATALITIES



From 2020-2022, 54% of the people killed in distracted driving crashes were someone other than the distracted driver.

Driving while using a handheld electronic communication device is now against the law for all drivers.

UNDER THE NEW LAW, DRIVERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM:



**PHYSICALLY HOLDING A CELLPHONE WITH ANY PART OF THE BODY**



**MANUALLY SENDING OR READING TEXT-BASED MESSAGES**



**RECORDING OR SENDING VIDEO, VIDEO CALLS OR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**



**WATCHING A VIDEO OR MOVIE**

# 12 OUT OF 15 STATES

AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EXPERIENCED A DECREASE IN FATALITY RATES WITHIN 2 YEARS OF PASSING A HANDS-FREE LAW.



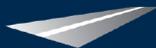
These 15 states experienced an average decrease in the fatality rate of 15.3%.



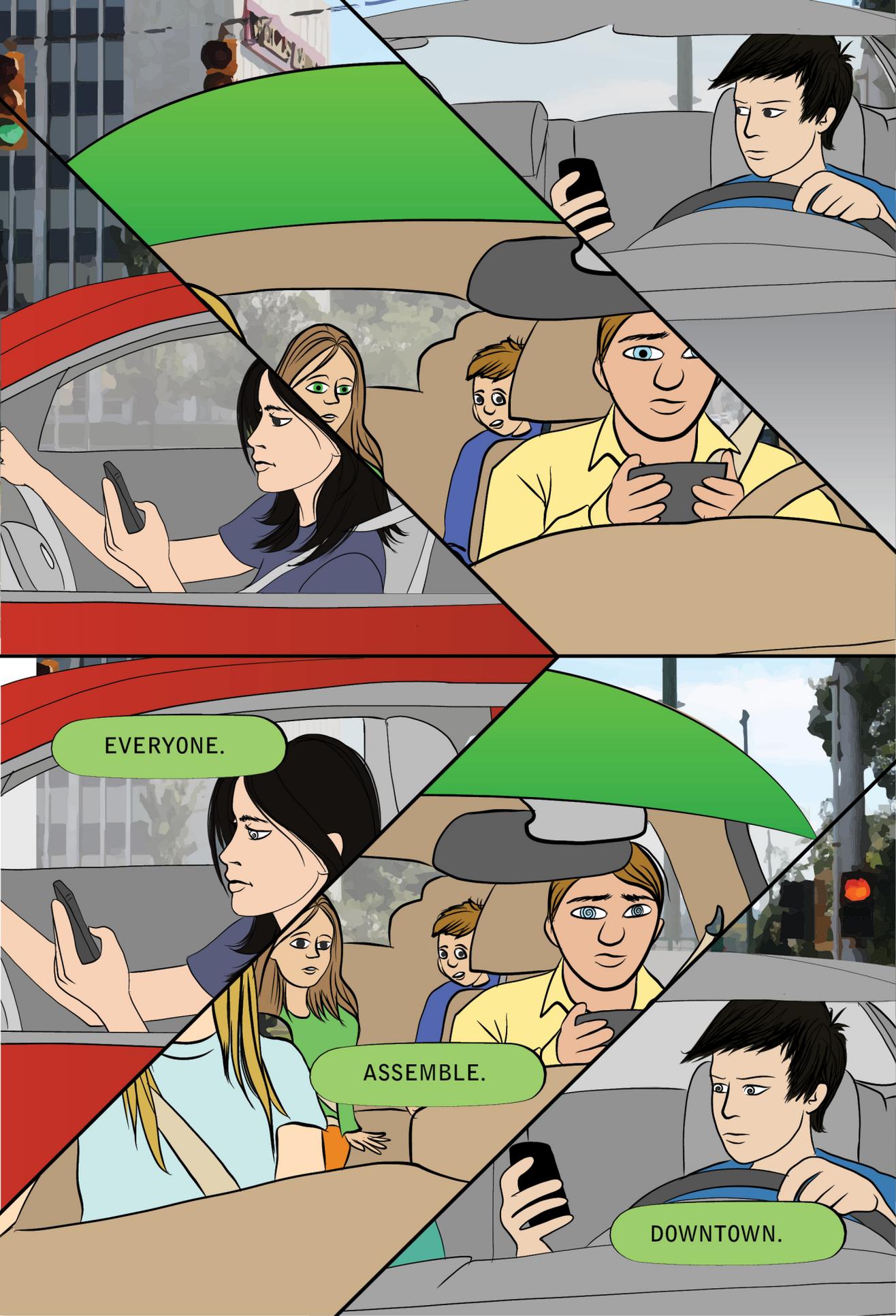
Six states and the District of Columbia experienced a decrease of more than 20%.



Missouri Coalition  
for Roadway Safety



Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Transportation, AT&T, Governor's Highway Safety Association, and CTIA



EVERYONE.

ASSEMBLE.

DOWNTOWN.

EVERYONE.

ASSEMBLE.

DOWNTOWN.

Wonder Click, my safety alert is going off again!

That's right. You have to choose - catch me or...

SAVE THE CITY!  
Hahahaha!

Good luck,  
Safety Freaks!

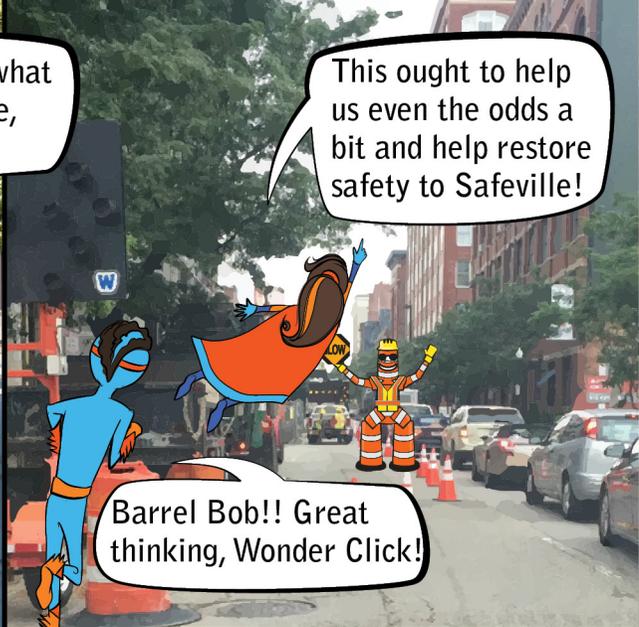




Holy automotive nightmare, Wonder Click! What are we going to do?



I know exactly what to do! Follow me, Safe Ride!



This ought to help us even the odds a bit and help restore safety to Safeville!

Barrel Bob!! Great thinking, Wonder Click!



Safety emergency mode. Engage.



Where has the Texter gone? Will the Safety Friends catch him? Will Barrel Bob and the Safety Friends be able to restore Safeville to Safety? Find out after this activity!





# TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

## Word Search

B  
H Q U  
V N C B C  
J B I H A N K  
X C R D I L N Y L  
D W T C U L V E R T E  
Y O F I B U D V H I B O U  
L N H C A R C R A S H E S B P  
D I S T R A C T E D D R I V I N G  
C A I R P O R T S S L F R E I G H T Z  
Z S I P T R A N S I T N O T E X T I N G U  
A E B U Z Z E D D R I V I N G T Y A B  
P A B R O U N D A B O U T Y F A L  
H T R R G A X I C R O A D S T  
O B I A L P N X I T Z Z C  
N E D O L T L O M O C  
E L G W S G D X H  
D T E H Q Q A  
O S S K I  
W Y O  
N

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

AIRPORTS

BRIDGES

BUCKLE UP

BUZZED DRIVING

ROUNDAABOUT

CHILD RESTRAINTS

CULVERT

DISTRACTED DRIVING

DRUNK DRIVING

FREIGHT

NO TEXTING

PHONE DOWN

ROADS

CAR CRASHES

SEAT BELTS

TRANSIT





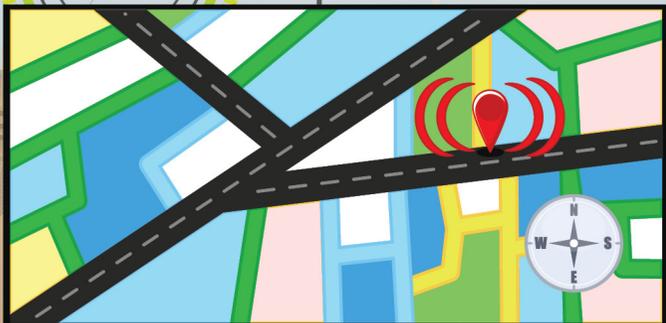


Now we just need to find Texter!

That was awesome! Everyone is back to driving safely with their phones down and seat belts on!



Wow! That didn't take long. My safety alert watch found Texter already. He is heading out of town fast! Let's go, Wonder Click!



SAFETY BEAM

Now leaving  
**SAFEVILLE**  
Come back soon!

Text you later,  
Safeville! Time to  
take a victory selfie.



The Safety  
Friends?!?

Enjoy your stay,  
Texter! Hope you like  
your new CELL!



**WOOSH**





Hey, kids! Hope you enjoyed this comic. Remember that although you might not be driving yet, you can be a Safety Friend by reminding those who drive you not be distracted by their phones while they drive!

And remember to always wear your seat belt when you are riding in a vehicle. If you see someone not wearing their seat belt, ask them politely to buckle up! It only takes a couple seconds, and it makes everyone safer!

## CREDITS

Produced by  
MoDOT Communications Division

Special Appearances by  
Barrel Bob

For More Information  
[www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown](http://www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown)



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