VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY
RESOLUTION

Dangers of Distracted Driving

Adopted October 29, 2011

Whereas, distracted driving comes in various forms, such as cell phone use, texting while driving, as well as using in-vehicle technologies and portable electronic devices; and

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, twenty percent of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving; and

Whereas, a Virginia Technical University Transportation Institute study revealed that physically dialing a phone while driving increases the risk of a crash as much as six times and texting increases the collision risk by 23 times; and

Whereas, Vermont state police reports show that roughly 10 percent of all crashes in Vermont are caused by distracted drivers; and

Whereas, under Vermont law, a person shall not engage in texting while operating a moving motor vehicle on a highway; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society urge the Vermont General Assembly to enact a law banning the use of a hand-held communication device while driving, except in the event of an emergency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society work with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Governor’s Highway commission to decrease cell phone use while driving and educate the public on the dangers of all forms of distracted driving.