



## **News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office**

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**March 31, 2010**

### **Sheriff's Office Initiates "Don't Text and Drive" Program**

The Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Bureau is launching an aggressive campaign to warn people, especially teenagers, about the dangers of texting while driving. The program, in cooperation with Shelby County Schools, will be presented next week to all Arlington High School students.

**"We're beginning this program in the Shelby County Schools because so many young people communicate by text messages. Our Deputies believe more and more teenagers send or receive messages on their cell phones while driving,"** said Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

In the past year, Sheriff's Deputies investigated **28** traffic crashes that involved "Inattentive" teenaged drivers. Although statistics are not specifically kept on texting, that and other factors such as eating or reading while driving led to those crashes.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says drivers are **23** times more likely to have a traffic crash if they're reading or sending text messages.

The Arlington High School program begins at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, April 5. The school is located at 5485 Airline Road in Arlington.

The Sheriff's Office *"Don't Text and Drive"* presentation is available to any neighborhood group, businesses, faith-based organization or interested citizens throughout Shelby County. To schedule an event, call the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Bureau at **(901) 867-1401**.

**(End of Release)**