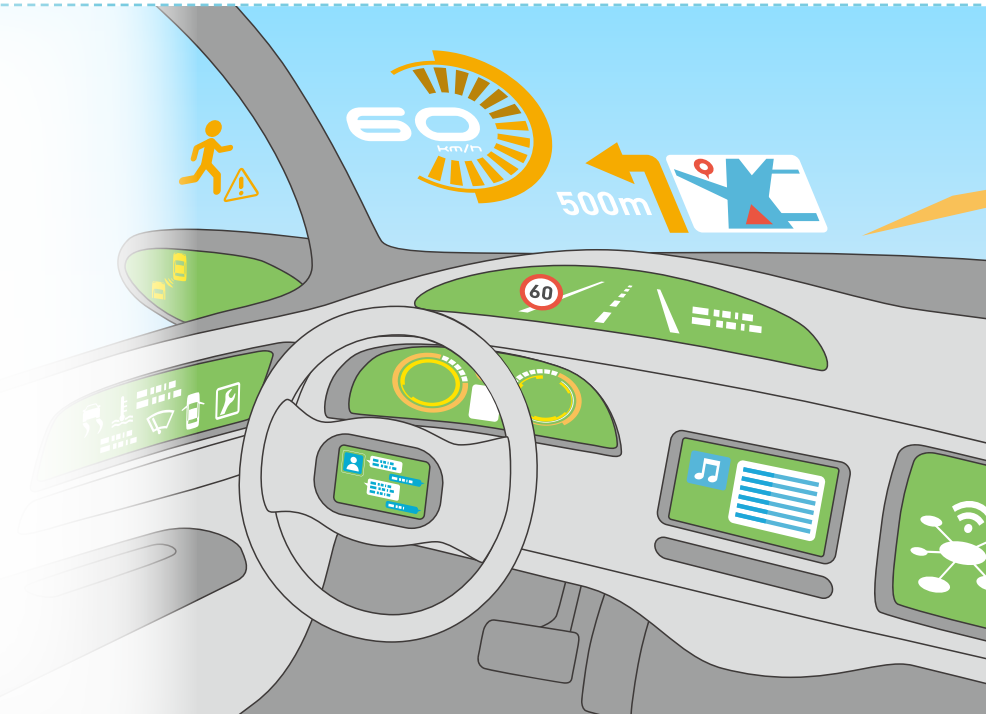


Is New Car  
Technology Causing

## More Distracted Driving?



*Driving while distracted can be deadly. The National Highway Safety Association reported that distracted driving caused 3,522 deaths and 362,415 injuries in 2021.*

Although we all know better than to lose focus on the road, many people don't use good judgment. A study by Allianz reported that the percentage of drivers who pick up their mobile phones to text while driving had increased from 15% in 2016 to 24% in 2022. That's nearly one in four drivers texting, each increasing their risk of an accident by 50%!

But as texting while driving reigns as the poster child for distracted driving, other technologies also pull our attention away from the road. Our vehicles have become modern computerized marvels with all sorts of bells and whistles to make the driving experience as comfortable and effortless as possible. But with the conveniences of advanced technology come drawbacks, including more opportunities for distractions.

Approximately half of the drivers surveyed in the Allianz study admitted to being distracted by their vehicle's computerized displays.

That's not too hard to believe when considering all the settings and features we can control with our car's touchscreen displays.

For example:

- Bluetooth connection to our phones
- Climate control
- Entertainment
- Navigation
- Communication

Relying too heavily on automated safety features—such as forward collision warning, blind spot warning, and lane departure warning can also increase accident risks. Sadly, some

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Electric Vehicle Owners Will Pay More for Towing Services

**EVs are on the rise everywhere.** According to a recent LNP News article, the number of electric vehicles (EVs) in Lancaster County went from 29 in 2013 to 1,277 in 2022. A report from the U.S. Department of Energy says there were 47,700 EVs registered in Pennsylvania at the end of last year.

**As more EVs hit the road,** towing companies must adapt to handle them. That presents unique challenges and additional expenses for those small businesses. With EVs' complex batteries and circuitry—and lack of uniformity across makes and models—towing companies are on a learning curve as they adjust their processes and obtain the equipment necessary to tow EVs safely and manage their fire risks.

### Why Are EVs More Difficult and Costly to Tow?

**EV systems have no standard way of cutting off a vehicle's power,** so tow operators may need to read the vehicle's manual at the incident site to figure it out. That requires more time and potentially puts them in danger next to a busy roadway.

### EV batteries present a significant fire risk.

An EV battery could heat up, ignite, or explode days after an accident or other source of damage. So towing companies need specialized equipment and facilities—e.g., isolated containment areas for working on and storing EVs and vehicle fire blankets to prevent oxygen from reaching the battery and sparking flames.

### Also, tow operators need training to handle EVs and mitigate risk factors.

For example, because of the regenerative braking systems in EVs, they need to be towed in a way that doesn't let the drive wheels turn, which would send power to the battery. As EV technology evolves, tow operators will need continued education and training.

### The Bottom Line

**The expenses to towing companies can be tens of thousands of dollars** to prepare to serve EV and hybrid vehicle owners. That's a significant amount for a small business to absorb, so EV owners can expect those costs to be passed on to them.

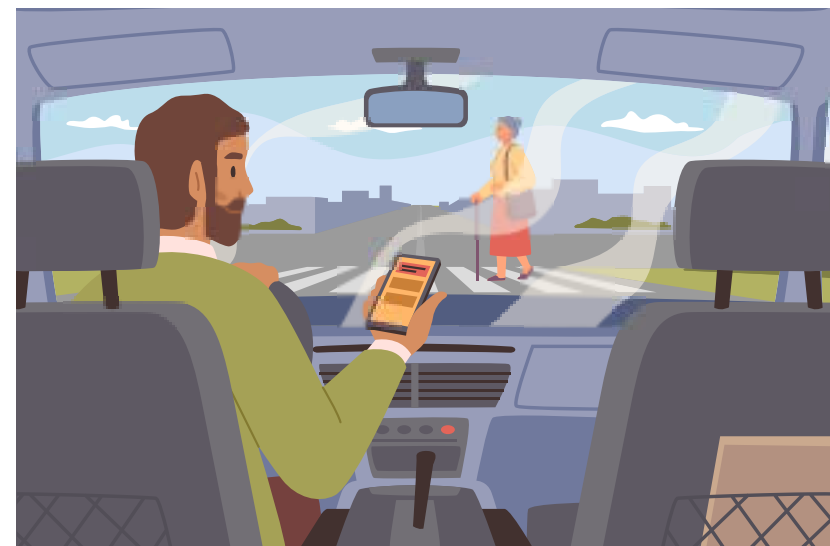
*(Continued from page 1)*

drivers fail to realize their car's advanced safety options are meant to supplement safe driving habits, **not replace them.**

**Moreover, vehicles equipped with other advanced features** (like video rear-view mirrors that enable drivers to see traffic behind them) add another display for drivers to watch, diverting their attention from the road ahead.

### The Moral of the Story: Safety First

**No matter how technologically advanced your vehicle is,** do not ignore your personal responsibility to concentrate when driving. Avoid texting and calling, set up your destination in your navigation system before you leave the driveway, pull over if you want to switch to a different Spotify list, and don't take automated safety features for granted. Technology can fail—sometimes without warning—so keep your hands on the wheel and your mind on what matters. Safe driving habits will never become obsolete!



SOURCES:  
[https://www.allianz.com/en/press/news/studies/230301\\_Allianz-Drivers-are-too-disturbed-by-modern-technology.html](https://www.allianz.com/en/press/news/studies/230301_Allianz-Drivers-are-too-disturbed-by-modern-technology.html)  
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813443>

**HUMOR**  
**me**

### SNOW JOKES

- **Who were the snowman's parents?**  
Mom and popsicle!
- **What do snowmen eat for breakfast?**  
Frosted Flakes
- **What did the wool hat say to the scarf?**  
You hang around while I go on ahead.
- **How does a North Pole carpenter fix something broken?**  
Igloos it together.
- **What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowman?**  
Frostbite!
- **Which is faster, hot or cold?**  
Hot—you can catch cold pretty easily!
- **What do snowmen eat for lunch?**  
Icebergers!
- **What is a snowman's favorite food?**  
Chilli

From

<https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/holidays-celebrations/a41871952/winter-jokes/#jokes-about-winter>  
<https://www.nationalworld.com/news/offbeat/snow-jokes-30-best-one-liners-snowing-4059343>



**Ingredients:**

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups cooked shredded chicken ( or use 1 lb ground chicken)
- 1 small can (4.5 oz) chopped green chillies

- 12 oz jar of red salsa or green salsa
- 3 oz cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 2 cups shredded cheese
- 8 (6") flour tortillas
- 1/2 can black beans drained (optional) - freeze remainder

**Instructions:**

- Sauté onion in butter until tender. If using ground chicken, brown it here.
- Stir in shredded chicken, 1/2 cup salsa, chillies, cream cheese, cumin, and optional beans
- Cook until heated
- Spray 9"X 13" baking dish and put a little salsa in bottom

- Spoon 1/3 cup mixture in center of each tortilla. Roll up. Place seam side down in pan. Top with remaining cheese and salsa
- Bake 20 minutes. Serves 4.
- \* I put red salsa in filling and then use green salsa to cover
- \*\* Can be made in advance and refrigerate. Bake 45 to 60 minutes.

\* Courtesy of Gail Miller

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