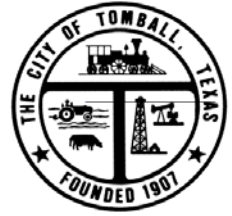




PRESS RELEASE

#12202010-2
TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT



400 Fannin, Tomball, Texas 77375
(281) 351-5451 Fax: (281) 351-2615

For Immediate Release

Date: December 20, 2010
Contact: Robert S. Hauck Chief of Police
Phone: (281) 290-1302

Texting Ban Begins Tomorrow

On Tuesday, December 21, 2010, Ordinance No. 2010-25 becomes law – and use of certain wireless communication devices while driving will be prohibited.

Safe operation of a motor vehicle involves significant responsibility, and to do so properly one must remain attentive to the act of driving. To accomplish this we, as a responsible community, must do all we can to limit activities that distract from safe vehicle operations.

With the advent of technology such as “smart-phones” it has become routine for the drivers to become distracted by many forms of electronic messaging such as email, texting, or instant messaging. Most of us do not think about the potential consequences, we simply get caught up in the hustle-and-bustle of life and the societal expectation of instant response. Unfortunately, this norm is costing us in the form of vehicle related injuries and deaths, and we must change this.

Much like our experience with the school zone restrictions, Ordinance No 2010-25 is intended to enhance traffic safety by changing the behavior of those who operate motor vehicles within the City of Tomball. It is our expectation that we will experience voluntary compliance from our citizenry at-large. It is not our intent to engage in “gotcha” tactics, but instead to educate, inform, and change driving behavior in a positive way. Only in egregious/habitual situations will enforcement be the most appropriate response.

Now you not only have an obligation, but an excuse, to ignore those messages coming to your “smart phone,” so that you can focus on your responsibility to drive safely.

A copy of Ordinance No. 2010-25 can be viewed at
<http://www.ci.tomball.tx.us/mayor-council/code-ordinance.html>