



MARCH/APRIL 2010

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Wes Pittman

DRIVING DISTRACTIONS

Many of us spend a tremendous amount of time in our cars these days. In Bay County alone, there are more than [140,000](#) licensed drivers on the road ranging in ages from 15 to 90+. The increased flow of traffic on Highway 77 in Lynn Haven has been the focus of a [recent news story](#) to find a solution hoping to decrease the number of fatalities in this area. Our desire to get back and forth to work, make

that appointment on time, or run the barrage of errands we need to accomplish on lunch breaks often lead to multi-tasking while driving. This can put not only you but also the drivers around you in a very dangerous situation.

Texting, making phone calls, or eating your lunch while driving take your focus from the roadway to whatever task it is you are doing. A [2008 study](#) done by the Florida Dept of Highway Safety on distracted drivers determined that drivers were 4 times more likely to be involved in an accident when they were multi-tasking while driving. The number of cell phone users has increased over the years in record numbers. In fact, many families have actually eliminated their

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

Brain Injury Awareness Month—Find out more by visiting [Brain Injury Association of Florida](#)

14th—Daylight Savings begins— clocks are moved forward one hour.

17th—St Patrick's Day

28th—Palm Sunday

30th—First Day of Passover

APRIL

5th through 9th —Students out for Spring break. Be aware of increased student outdoor activities during daytime hours/

12th—Back to school. Stay alert in school zones.

WE ARE UPDATING OUR WEBSITE

Over the past few months, we have been working to improve our website—www.pittmanfirm.com. This will not only achieve an improved look but will also enhance the ability to provide information to our viewers that can be easily found. You should see our new look by the end of March.

Some sections will be renamed to better suit the subject, for example, what was formerly LINKS will now be RESOURCES. Also, the contents from our ARTICLES page can now be found in our new BLOG—<http://panamacityfloridainjurylawyerblog.com>. Take a moment to look at our new blog. Be sure to bookmark it for your easy return in the future to see what's new. We hope you will like our new look.

-Wes



We respect your privacy. If you do not wish to receive this, let us know:
Newsletter@pittmanfirm.com

Helping to keep your family informed!



“Everyone is trying to accomplish something big, not realizing life is made up of little things.”

Unknown-

For more inspirational quotes, go to: www.inspirational-quotes.com

RELAY FOR LIFE to benefit the American Cancer Society

The Pittman Firm is proud to be participating in this years' [Bay County Relay For Life](#). If you are unfamiliar with this event, you owe it to yourself to learn more about it. The 18-hour walk will take place on May 7th at the Bay County Fairgrounds. 100% of the funds collected will benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Having family members and friends affected by this disease, this is an important event to my staff and me.

To contribute to the cause, our team will be coordinating fundraisers in which we invite your participation. Soon we will be selling tickets for gift baskets including such themes as Golf, Chocolate Lovers, and Pets (a topic close to our hearts). You will be able to purchase a ticket for the basket drawing of your choice. We will furnish more details as we get closer to the event. I am very excited that, weather permitting, we will be offering Hot Air Balloon tethered rides the evening of the event. We invite you to come out, bring your family and friends, and support our efforts. To donate, access our [team page](#) online and search for Pittman's Pride.

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home “landline” in exchange for each family member having their own cell phone. The need to be connected at all times has resulted in an increased number of drivers diverting their attention from simply driving their car to operating a mini-office in their vehicle.

To reduce your risk of getting into an accident as a result of road distractions, avoid the most common tasks that have statistically resulted in an accident.

- Always wear your seat belt. First of all, it's the law and, secondly, it could save your life by reducing your chances of being ejected from your vehicle in the event of an accident.
- Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination. If you are rushing, you are more likely to speed or tailgate and may be less attentive to the traffic activity.
- Make all efforts to not use your cell phone while you are driving. If you must, use a hands-free device, keep your eyes on the road, and make it brief. Under no circumstances should you text and drive.
- Avoid eating and drinking while driving—take a few minutes to pull off the road to eat your lunch.
- Make sure your child is in safety restraints such as a car seat or seatbelt as appropriate for their age and size. DO NOT allow them to move about the car while it is in motion.
- Avoid reaching for items in your car, such as adjusting the radio or an item from the rear seat. The moment you look away from the road could be the moment the car in front of you slows down or stops. Keep a safe distance while in motion to allow you to react should the driver ahead stop abruptly.

Parents should talk with their teen drivers about [safety](#) and should enroll them in a driver safety course. Not only will it educate the teen driver, but it will also result in a discount on your car insurance. Parents should also lead by example. If your driving habits include risks, your teen driver will likely repeat them as well.