



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zero Fatality assembly at WHS

Last Friday, April 6, students at Wasatch High School learned some sobering facts during a school *Zero Fatalities* assembly put on by Safe Kids Wasatch County as part of Highway Safety Week.

Stacy Johnson, from *Zero Fatalities*, spoke to the crowd of students about some to the dangers of distracted, aggressive, and impaired driving. Moving stories and startling facts helped illustrate how careful students need to be while behind the wheel.

Johnson told teens about keeping their hands off their cell phones while in the car. Talking on a cell phone has been shown to be as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol, and, according to Johnson, a person is 23 times more likely to be in an accident if texting while driving.

Aggressive driving is also a problem among teens. Johnson shared a story about five teens who died in a head-on collision when the driver cross double yellow lines as he tried to pass his friend ahead of him.

“They didn’t have to die,” Johnson said. “All five of those teens could still be here if they hadn’t tried to pass around a double yellow line.”

The *Zero Fatalities* assembly was the culminating event at WHS during Highway Safety Week. During the week students heard messages about safe driving during school announcements, and participated in “big wheel” driving tests at lunch times.

Amber Pulley, health educator at the Wasatch County Health Department, said Highway Safety Week is a very important way to reduce and prevent vehicle related injuries among teens.

“The more we can teach teen drivers to be safer behind the wheel, the closer we’ll get to reach the goal of zero fatalities in Wasatch County,” said Pulley.

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