

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

This program was produced for use in classrooms, libraries, community centers, social service agencies, youth organizations, camps, teen groups and parent education centers, or for viewing by parents and teens together at home. Although its target audience is Middle-High School students & their parents, anyone who has regular contact with and a commitment to young people can benefit from this video as well. It is meant to be used as a part of a learning experience that begins before viewing the program and extends beyond the classroom walls. The discussion questions and follow-up activities are intended to enhance this learning experience. Educators and counselors planning to show *EDGE ST: Turn in the Road* to teens may want to view the video in advance so that they can adapt their program follow-up to best suit the needs of their group. It is suggested that teens view the video under adult supervision.

OBJECTIVES

- * To spotlight & better recognize the potentially catastrophic dangers of distracted driving.
- * To examine the aftermath of losing a loved one and how to more effectively reach out to those left behind during the grieving process.
- * To better recognize suicidal ideation and help get that individual into a Guidance / Counseling setting.

SYNOPSIS

In the Emmy® Nominated EDGE ST., teen ghost Christine Dawn has her hands full when the spirit of a student recently killed by a distracted driver needs her help to find closure for his embittered, grieving sister. When Christine discovers that the distracted driver was a fellow student, she knows she has her work cut out for her in a High School turned upside down by tragedy.

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DISTRACTED DRIVING STATISTICS

11% of all drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. The aforementioned percentage ranks as the largest proportion of distracted drivers in fatal car crashes.

Just texting alone creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving when you're not distracted.

40% of all American teens say they've been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger.

Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds; the equivalent of driving the length of an entire football field at 55 mph - blind.

Thirty-nine states have already banned texting behind the wheel for all age groups, and another five have outlawed it for all teen drivers.

***For additional information, please visit [DISTRACTION.GOV](http://www.distraction.gov)
@ <http://www.distraction.gov>.***

SIGNS OF GRIEF IN TEENS

(taken from the griefspeaks web site)

lack of concentration

shock, numbness

avoidance and retreat

constant thoughts of the loss

jealousy aimed at those who have what you do not

anger

self blame

confusion and feeling disoriented, feeling in a fog

nervousness

irritability

declining grades (ask a teacher to help you, ask a friend to help too, as this becomes another loss)

loss of interest in usual activities

over-activity, acting too busy (to block out pain)

wanting to be alone a lot

deep sadness

drug and/or alcohol use or abuse

eating too much or too little (eating disorders)

risk taking behavior (especially when guilt is involved, like in an accident that another teen was involved in)

self destructive, anti-social or criminal behavior (cutting)

promiscuity (often teens tell me they really only wanted someone to hold and comfort them. Be careful now as you are vulnerable)

thinking about suicide (talk to a trusted adult)

somatic manifestations of grief (stomach upsets, headaches, fatigue, symptoms similar to the deceased prior symptoms)

***For additional information, please visit [griefspeaks](http://griefspeaks.com)
@ <http://griefspeaks.com>***

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

(taken from the Mayo Clinic's web site)

You can't always tell when a loved one or friend is considering suicide. But here are some common signs:

Talking about suicide — for example, making statements such as "I'm going to kill myself," "I wish I were dead" or "I wish I hadn't been born"

Getting the means to commit suicide, such as buying a gun or stockpiling pills

Withdrawing from social contact and wanting to be left alone

Having mood swings, such as being emotionally high one day and deeply discouraged the next

Being preoccupied with death, dying or violence

Feeling trapped or hopeless about a situation

Increasing use of alcohol or drugs

Changing normal routine, including eating or sleeping patterns

Doing risky or self-destructive things, such as using drugs or driving recklessly

Giving away belongings or getting affairs in order when there is no other logical explanation for why this is being done

Saying goodbye to people as if they won't be seen again

Developing personality changes or being severely anxious or agitated, particularly when experiencing some of the warning signs listed above.

***For more information, please visit the Mayo Clinic's web site
@ <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/suicide/MH00058>***

CLASSROOM / GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you know or know of anyone who has been gravely impacted by distracted driving...?
2. If Dana's texting hadn't resulted in someone's death, would you still consider her behavior dangerous / reckless? (If not, why...?)
3. How would you help a friend who had just lost a loved one?
4. If you were Lora could you have forgiven Dana...?
5. What do you think happens after the film ends? How might the rest of the story play out...?

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

1. Invite local road safety and mental health professionals to talk to your group more in-depth about the issues addressed in the film.