

Drivers who took car crash photos in trouble

15th August, 2014



British police are prosecuting four motorists for slowing down on a busy highway to take photos of a crash scene. It will be the first time for drivers in Britain to face prosecution for "rubbernecking" – the act of looking back at a grisly scene, usually while driving a car. The four rubbernecks slowed down to snap photos of a crash on the other side of the road. Drivers behind them were forced to brake to avoid hitting the rubbernecks. Police at the scene said the photo-taking motorists had been "acting irresponsibly" in slowing down to use their mobile phones to take photos. They will be charged with driving without due care and attention and without reasonable consideration for other road users.

Police officer Shelley Holloway spoke to journalists about the incident. She said: "Thankfully nobody was injured in the collision. However the actions of several motorists who drove through the scene showed no regard for their own or of other people's safety, as they used their mobile phones to record or video the wreckage as they passed. In doing so, they were not in proper control of their vehicle. They slowed down causing motorists behind them to brake or take evasive action and slow the flow of traffic that was already heavily congested." She added that: "One of the causes of serious injury and fatal collisions is the use of mobile telephones." She urged motorists to lock their phones away when driving.

Sources: *Mirror / Gloucester Echo / Stroud News & Journal*

Writing

Drivers should be banned from using mobile phones in cars. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

prosecuting / motorists / crash scene / grisly scene / irresponsibly / consideration / journalists / injured / safety / wreckage / in proper control / traffic / serious injury

True / False

- British police are taking dozens of motorists to court for taking photos. T / F
- This will be the first time British police have prosecuted rubbernecks. T / F
- The rubbernecks caused many cars behind them to crash. T / F
- The police will charge the rubbernecks for driving too slowly. T / F
- No one was hurt in the accident that was photographed. T / F
- A police officer said the rubbernecks weren't in control of their car. T / F
- Police said it was fortunate there was light traffic at the time. T / F
- A police officer suggested drivers lock their phones away while driving. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. prosecuting | a. gruesome |
| 2. drivers | b. consideration |
| 3. grisly | c. episode |
| 4. irresponsibly | d. movement |
| 5. reasonable | e. taking to court |
| 6. incident | f. deadly |
| 7. collision | g. sensible |
| 8. regard | h. motorists |
| 9. flow | i. accident |
| 10. fatal | j. recklessly |

Discussion – Student A

- Do motorists need to take refresher courses on driving safely?
- How can police stop rubbernecks slowing down?
- Should cars be fitted with devices to block phone signals?
- How have mobile phones changed the world?
- What is the most dangerous thing people do while driving?
- Do you think we are all rubbernecks?
- Do you think people should lock their phones away in cars?
- What questions would you like to ask a driving safety expert?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. slowing down on a | a. were forced to brake |
| 2. a grisly | b. of their vehicle |
| 3. Drivers behind them | c. care and attention |
| 4. motorists had been | d. congested |
| 5. without due | e. scene |
| 6. nobody was injured | f. collisions |
| 7. record or video | g. busy highway |
| 8. not in proper control | h. the wreckage |
| 9. traffic that was already heavily | i. in the collision |
| 10. the causes of serious injury and fatal | j. "acting irresponsibly" |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of rubberneckers?
- How bad is rubbernecking in your country?
- Why do people want to take photos of crash scenes?
- What punishment should the rubberneckers get?
- Why do motorists create danger for others by rubbernecking?
- What things do you take photos of in public?
- What do you think of the word "rubbernecker"?
- Should mobile phones be banned in cars?

Spelling

- police are prosecuting four iotrmstso
- looking back at a rlgyis scene
- acting sbiylrlnrspeo
- Police at the neecs
- without due care and ttontnaei
- caioeiosrdnn for other road users
- spoke to journalists about the ednniict
- injured in the lnclooiis
- record or video the racegwke
- brake or take evsivea action
- heavily egctsendo
- ltfaa collisions

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. j	5. g
6. c	7. i	8. b	9. d	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Rubbernecking

You think rubbernecking is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these of these (and why): speeding, idling or tailgating.

Role B – Speeding

You think speeding is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these of these (and why): rubbernecking, idling or tailgating.

Role C – Idling

You think idling is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these of these (and why): speeding, rubbernecking or tailgating.

Role D – Tailgating

You think tailgating is the worst thing drivers do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these of these (and why): speeding, idling or rubbernecking.

Speaking – Drivers

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst habits at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • rubbernecking | • hooting / honking |
| • eating and driving | • double parking |
| • speeding | • idling |
| • tailgating | • hogging a lane |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.