

# Colony High School Students Get Lesson in Distracted Driving

On November 16, 2011, teens at Colony High School took the wheel of electric carts to learn how impairment affects their driving. The Alaska State Troopers partnered with Colony High School to put on a DUI and distracted driving presentation.

Sergeant Dan Cox from the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol doled out his good advice on what not to do while driving on Alaska's roads. To show a gym full of highschoolers exactly what he was talking about, he had four students assist him in proving his points. He had the participating students drive an obstacle course on a small electrical cart while texting and driving, wearing the "drunk goggles" which blurs vision, holding a small dog and being distracted by a friend along for the ride. Besides being unsafe, impaired driving and using a screen device while driving are misdemeanor crimes in the state of Alaska.

Needless to say, the teens had a difficult time staying on track. A number of cones were knocked over by a wayward electrical cart operated by distracted drivers.

"I heard some of the students talking about it after the assembly was over and they were saying that it never occurred to them that if they texted someone that was driving they could be distracting that driver," said Sergeant Cox. "And for me, the most important part was getting the message out that they need to put 100% of their attention into the act of driving and not treat it as time to do something else."

