



SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

Cell Phone Safety When Driving

As convenient as cellular technology is, there are safety concerns associated with its use as well. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, the risk of a collision when using a cellular phone is four times higher than when the phone is not in use, making it a dangerous as driving while intoxicated.

Why are so many drivers using their cell phones?

The positives to cell phone usage include: the ability to conduct business outside the office; the ability to call for help in an emergency or to call for roadside assistance; and the ability to stay in touch with colleagues.

But despite the numerous benefits, cell phones can pose a serious risk.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has determined that driver distraction is a primary or contributing factor in as many as 50% of all traffic collisions. This statistic is supported by the act that cell phone users spend over half their time on their phones while driving. Studies done by the National Safety Council have show that phone conversations result in slower response to traffic signals, as well as increasing the likelihood of missing a signal.

Despite popular belief, using a hands-free cell phone is proven to be just as dangerous as a hand-held cell phone. Promoting the use of hands-free devices only encourages employees to drive and talk. Employers should take a proactive approach by prohibiting the use of cellular phones by employees while driving.



Effective June 1, 2018: Rhode Island State Law

Hand-held wireless communication devices are prohibited.

What is Not Allowed

Driver is not allowed to hold a cell phone or other wireless device while operating a vehicle. The use of headphones or other accessories that cover both ears is also prohibited.

What Is Allowed

Drivers will be able to use in-car or other hands-free systems or accessories, which commonly use Bluetooth wireless technology.



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