



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Cell Phone

Cell phones, when originally introduced, were considered a luxury for the affluent folks in society. Now that picture has changed, and they are considered as a necessity. They are necessary in most all businesses and most all avenues of fun and entertainment.

CELL PHONE FACTS-

- ✓ The Wireless Association reports that there are more than 275 million cell phone subscribers today.
- ✓ Nationwide Insurance quotes that 81% of their poll admitted to talking on a cell phone while driving.
- ✓ The National Safety Council (NSC) states that the annual cost of cell phone-related rashes is estimated at \$43 billion dollars.
- ✓ Harvard Center of Risk Analysis quotes: Cell phone use contributes an estimated 6% of all crashes, which equates to 636,000 crashes, 330,000 injuries, 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 deaths each year.
- ✓ 80% of crashes are related to driver inattention. The #1 source of driver inattention is cell phones.
- ✓ Drivers who use a cell phone, either hands-free or hand-held, are 4 times more likely to be involved in a crash.
(1997-New England Journal of Medicine)

ADVANTAGES OR AIDS OF USING A CELL PHONE-

- The ability to talk to someone without having to leave your present location or look for a regular telephone.
- They are extremely helpful in emergency situations. If you are in an accident or come upon an accident, the availability to call 911 immediately with your cell phone gets help much quicker than having to locate a standard phone.
- They enable managers to communicate with supervisors or employees in remote locations or with drivers on the road.

DISADVANTAGES OR DANGERS OF CELL PHONES-

- While working on a hazardous project, like trimming bushes, hedges or cutting tree limbs, receiving a call could divert your attention from your machine and cause a serious injury.
- Driving any type of motorized vehicle and receiving a cell phone call diverts your attention from the road and could cause you to have a serious accident.

CELL PHONE SAFETY TIPS-

- Unless you are in an emergency situation, you should pull off of the road and park before making a call or texting.
- When operating a tractor, ATV, or other types of farm machinery, come to a complete stop before making a call or texting.
- Refrain from taking calls when you are carrying sharp tools or small motorized appliances. A small, temporary distraction could cause a serious injury.
- Refrain from taking or sending calls or texting when you are driving in hazardous conditions, like heavy storms, heavy traffic, etc. Pull over to a safe area off the road to take or send messages.
- If you are in a vehicle daily and for extended lengths of time, it would be a prudent decision to purchase a hands-free device.
- If it is a necessity to talk on the phone, not texting by any means, keep the conversation as short as possible and try to avoid calls that are emotional or stressful, such as critically sick family members or a "lovers' quarrel."
- Get comfortable and totally familiar with your cell phone functions.
- If you are buying a new phone, check the box or container and get one with the lowest radiation reading you can find.
- Follow all state and local regulations regarding the use of your cell phone on the road. If it is difficult to get the laws seek help from a manager or your local highway trooper.
- Use your phone to assist other folks that need help.
- Always keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road ahead when you are driving. Tuning the radio, checking the GPS, opening the glove box and using your cell phone all are distractions from concentrated driving practices and can cause a serious injury.
- Some states have laws regarding the use of hands-free devices when driving. It would behoove you to get familiar with these states that have this law, especially if you do a lot of multi-state driving.
- Refrain from attempting to make notes or "to-do" lists while driving and using the cell phone.
- If you need a phone number immediately that you don't have, pull off the road, stop and then look for the number.

Cell Phone – Do's & Don'ts

*SAFETY'S INTENTION
IS
ACCIDENT PREVENTION !!

ALERT TODAY~~ALIVE
TOMORROW*

Do:

- ~ Use you cell phone to assist others in emergencies
- ~ Keep conversations short-avoid emotional or stressful conversations while on the cell.
- ~ Get familiar with laws governing the use of Cell phones

Don't:

- ~ Answer a call carrying sharp tools or gas appliances.
- ~ Use the cell phone while driving in hazardous conditions
- ~ Get a hands-free device, if you do a lot of driving

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. /Loss Control Mgr.
MAFESW/MSU-ES (662) 566-2201
Excerpts: www.gemplers.com
www.nsc.org/safety road/distracted driving

PUT SAFETY FIRST xxx PREVENT THE WORST!