



Cell Phones & Distracted Driving

The Growing Epidemic of Cell Phone Use While Driving



Distracted Driving Course

- Welcome
- Housekeeping
- Introductions



Course Objectives



- Define the term “distracted.”
- Understand the risk of using cell phones while driving.
- Identify tips to prevent distracted driving.
- Explain why using a cell phone while driving is a distraction.
- Know your state laws regarding cell phone use and text messaging.



Definition: Distracted

dis-tract-ed
(dī-strāk' -tīd)
adjective

1. Having the attention divided.
2. Rendered incapable of behaving, reacting, etc., in a normal manner.



Driving Distractions



- Passenger-related
- Vehicle-related
- Wireless devices
- Eating
- Smoking
- Daydreaming
- Looking at distractions outside the vehicle
- Personal hygiene



Driving Distractions

- Three types:
 - Visual
 - Eyes on road
 - Cognitive
 - Mind on driving
 - Manual
 - Hands on wheel





Risks of Distraction

- 80% of crashes
- 65% of near-crashes
- Cell phones No. 1 distraction

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Risks of Distraction

- Doubles rear-end collision risk
- Slows reaction time
- Miss traffic signals, signs and exits
- Miss half the information in driving environment – “look” but not “see”
- Increases traffic violations
- Increases risk of injury crash four times

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True or False?



Distracted driving is a form of aggressive driving.

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Self Assessment

- **46 to 50: Focused Driver**
 - You consider others when you drive.
 - You consciously drive to be safe and keep others safe.
- **36 to 45: Common Driver**
 - A little more focus on safety and total control of your vehicle could help you and other drivers.

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Self Assessment

- **26 to 35: Risky Driver**
 - You multitask while driving.
 - You are distracted and at risk for mistakes while driving in this manner.
- **25 or less: Hazardous Driver**
 - Your driving is placing you, your passengers, other drivers and pedestrians at risk.

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How to Stay Safe



What can you do to reduce your risk of crashes and injuries?

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Frequently Asked Questions



Does cell phone use while driving cause traffic crashes?



Frequently Asked Questions



Is it safe to use a hands-free cell phone (headset, speakerphone, or other device) while driving?



Frequently Asked Questions



Is talking on a cell phone any worse than having a conversation with a passenger in the car?



Frequently Asked Questions



In an emergency, should I use my cell phone while driving?



Frequently Asked Questions



What do the studies say about the relative risk of cell phone use when compared to other activities like eating or drinking?



Assumption 1

"The genie is out of the bottle." Potentially distracting devices have invaded the driver's domain so pervasively that attempts to control them now are impossible or ill-advised.



Assumption 2

Eating fast food, applying cosmetics, and other in-car distractions also present risks, so why are we not worrying about them?



Assumption 3

Hands-free equipment lessens or eliminates driver distraction.



Assumption 4



Existing laws are adequate to deter drivers from the inappropriate use of distracting devices.

Assumption 5



Cell phones contribute to highway safety because they let people contact law enforcement and emergency services immediately, reducing response time.

State Laws & Municipal Ordinances



What is your state law?
What are laws of nearby states where you may drive?
What cities have passed ordinances in your state?

State Laws for TX/AR/LA

- 1.Handheld ban:** School zones (TX,AR),Hwy work zones (AR),Novice drivers (LA)
- 2.Young drivers:** all cellphone use (TX), under 18 (AR),all novice drivers (LA)
- 3.Bus drivers:** all banned(AR,LA); when 17 and under person present incl.texting (TX)
- 4.Texting ban:** all drivers(AR & LA); school crossing zones,interm.licensees for 1st 12 mo. (TX)
- 5.Enforcement:**primary(TX,LA)

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