



Confused about why hands-free devices offer no safety benefit?

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Corporate Cell Phone Policy

Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of workplace death. The National Safety Council reports cell phone use as a contributing factor in nearly 1 in 4 motor vehicle crashes. When an employee is involved in a crash, it can be devastating, but employers also face ongoing liability, insurance, productivity and absenteeism costs.

NSC believes the best practice is to ban cell phone use behind the wheel, including hands-free devices. Currently, no state law addresses both hands-free and handheld cell phone use among all drivers for talking and text messaging. NSC recommends employer policies exceed state law requirements.

Sample Cell Phone Policy

Employees may not use cell phones or mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle under any of the following situations, regardless of whether a hands-free device is used:

- When the employee is operating a vehicle owned, leased or rented by the organization
- When the employee is operating a personal motor vehicle in connection with organization business
- When the motor vehicle is on the organization's property
- When the cell phone or mobile electronic device is company owned or leased
- When the employee is using the cell phone or mobile electronic device to conduct organization business

TIPS FOR EMPLOYEES

- Let colleagues and clients know in advance that, for safety reasons, you do not answer your cell phone while driving – you can also mention this on your voicemail greeting.
- If appropriate, leave an estimated arrival time on your voicemail greeting so callers will know when to expect you.
- When traveling in poor weather, heavy traffic or for long periods of time, plan for breaks to regularly check in with callers. Pull off the road and park somewhere safe.
- Let calls go to voice mail and check in at your earliest convenience.

For more information on creating or enhancing a corporate cell phone policy, including a free Cell Phone Policy Kit, visit distracteddriving.nsc.org.



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