



Summer 2011

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View our distracted driving [resources](#).



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FirstGroup America Inc.**  
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### Tell us what you're doing

Are you already taking actions to keep you and your passengers safe? [Tell us how](#).



**Cell Phone Policy Kit**  
NSC provides a free cell phone policy kit to help organizations effectively implement cell phone bans that protect employees.

Download the [kit](#) today!

### Illinois Distracted Driving Summit

More than 300 people in the legislative, medical and transportation communities attended the first [Illinois Distracted Driving Summit](#) in Addison, IL on April 21, 2011. The National Safety Council joined with [FocusDriven](#) to host the event during Distracted Driving Awareness Month and discuss how to best reduce crashes involving distracted drivers.

Topic experts and issue leaders led the day's conversations, including:

- U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood
- Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White
- Illinois State Senate President John Cullerton
- Illinois General Assembly Representative John D'Amico

Speakers and panelists shared the state of this deadly issue today and how to work together to reduce crashes involving cell phone use.

The summit provided materials and action items for state-level grassroots efforts to change behaviors and make Illinois roadways safer. Sharing the success of the Illinois Distracted Driving Summit may spur other states to begin their own collaborative grassroots efforts. For information on coordinating a summit in your state, email [media@nsc.org](mailto:media@nsc.org).

### 1 in 5 Fortune 500s have a total cell phone ban while driving

One in five Fortune 500 companies has a total ban on cell phone use while driving that covers all employees, according to preliminary [results](#) from an NSC survey. Top employers are recognizing the dangers of cell phone use while driving and the importance of protecting their employees and communities in which they operate.

### Does your company have a cell phone policy in place?



### Share your story with HEARTS

Were you involved in a crash with a teen driver? Do you know someone who was? Join the HEARTS Network and share the stories behind the statistics. Learn more at [nsc.org/HEARTS](http://nsc.org/HEARTS).

### Need help?

- Do you need help implementing a policy?
- Are you running into any challenges or barriers?
- Do you need specific info?

Contact Deb Trombley - she will answer your questions and connect you with resources.

Deb Trombley  
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The early results indicate productivity either increased or remained at the same level for 40 percent of companies with total bans. About half the companies with total bans recently implemented their policies and could not yet say if productivity has been affected.

This data is evidence of progress in reducing the number of distracted drivers on the road, but thousands of Americans still die each year in distracted driving-related crashes. Learn about implementing a total ban in the workplace with the Council's free [Cell Phone Policy Kit](#), or download a [PDF](#) of the survey results.

To learn why hands-free devices offer no safety benefit, read the NSC [white paper](#).



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### A reminder: On the Road, Off the Phone

The National Safety Council called on all motorists in June to improve safety during National Safety Month with [On the Road, Off the Phone](#) week held June 26-30.

NSC provided [posters](#) and [tip sheets](#) to increase awareness about the dangers of cell phone use while driving - both handheld and hands-free.

Members had access to a free webinar, "Dangers of Distracted Driving," led by the Council's DDC Director Jim Solomon. More than 150 people attended the webinar, which can be viewed [here](#). Additional materials were provided to NSC members and can be found in the member section of the NSC website - please login to gain access.

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### Legislation update

This past spring saw passage of state distracted driving laws:

- **Arkansas** Senate Bill 154 banned handheld phones for all drivers in school and work zones, effective Oct. 1, 2011.
- **Indiana** House Bill 1129 banned text messaging for all drivers, effective July 1, 2011.
- **Maine** SB 228 banned text messaging for all drivers, effective Sept. 13, 2011.
- **Maryland** HB 196 strengthened the current text messaging ban for all drivers by additionally prohibiting the reading of text messages, effective Oct. 1, 2011.
- **Mississippi** SB 2472 banned the use of cell phones and text messaging by school bus drivers, effective July 1, 2011.
- **Nevada** SB 140 banned text messaging and all cell phone use by the holders of learner's and provisional licenses.
- **North Dakota** HB 1195 banned text messaging by all drivers, effective Aug. 1, 2011. Additionally, HB 1256 banned all cell phone use by drivers younger than 18, effective Jan. 1, 2012.
- **Texas** HB 2466 strengthened the ban on cell phone use for young drivers. Effective Sept. 1,

2011, all drivers younger than 18 are banned from using cell phones, whereas before, the ban only applied to provisional license holders.

With these laws, 34 states and Washington, D.C. now have texting bans. Teens are completely prohibited from using cell phones in 30 states. Ten states and D.C. have handheld cell phone bans. [Check the laws](#) in your state.

Even if a state law doesn't ban handheld or hands-free cell phone conversations, there **is** a safety risk to conversations while driving. Employers have been found liable for conversation-related crashes. Consider a cell phone policy that goes beyond state laws to protect employees and your liability. Download the Council's free [Cell Phone Policy Kit](#) for more information.

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