

Safety News

Snohomish County 

WORK SAFE INFO
FROM THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY
SAFETY OFFICE

NOVEMBER, 2010

Are you driving distracted?



In 2009, 5474 people were killed on U.S. roadways and an estimated additional 448,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes that were reported to have involved distracted driving. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

Of those people killed in distracted-driving-related crashes, 995 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction.

Of those injured in distracted-driving-related crashes, 24,000 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction.



From the Snohomish County Equipment Use Policy – Executive Order 08-02C

5.17 Cellular Phones, Two Way Radios and Lap Top Computers

5.17.1 Handheld cellular phones and laptop computers shall not be used while operating county equipment or vehicles. Installed communication devices and lap top computers shall be mounted outside airbag deployment zones.

5.17.2 Hands free cellular phones may be used to receive or place calls only when the use is for short duration and does not place the operator or the public in danger. Text messaging is not authorized when vehicles and equipment are in motion.

5.17.3 If use of any of these devices is found to contribute to an accident, or is in violation of the law, the employee may be subject to disciplinary action.

Quick facts about cell phone use while driving (from WA DOL)

- A driver talking on a cell phone is as impaired as a driver with a .08 blood-alcohol level.
- A driver who is texting is as impaired as a driver with a .16 blood-alcohol level. That's double the legal limit.
- Drivers talking on cell phones are half a second slower to hit the brakes in emergencies and miss more than half the visual cues seen by attentive drivers.



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