



# Distracted Driving

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- ) Texting
- ) Using a cell phone or smartphone
- ) Eating and drinking
- ) Talking to passengers
- ) Grooming
- ) Reading, including maps
- ) Using a navigation system
- ) Watching a video
- ) Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver making it by far the most alarming distraction.

Currently, 46 states including D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands ban text messaging for all drivers. All but 5 have primary enforcement. While no state has banned cell phone use, 14 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands prohibit drivers of all ages from using handheld cell phones while driving.

The best way to end distracted driving is to educate everyone about the danger it poses.

## Key Facts and Statistics

- ) In 2014, 3,179 people were killed and 431,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.
- ) According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10% of all drivers 15 to 19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted.
- ) In 2015 1.89 trillion text messages were sent in the US (includes PR, the Territories, and Guam) every month. (CTIA)
- ) At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010. (NOPUS)

*This fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice*

For additional information on this topic please contact ACWA JPIA Risk Control Department, Terry Lofing, Administrative Assistant ([tlofing@acwajpia.com](mailto:tlofing@acwajpia.com)) or 800-231-5742



- ) Engaging in visual-manual subtasks (such as reaching for a phone, dialing and texting) associated with the use of hand-held phones and other portable devices increased the risk of getting into a crash by three times. (VTTI)
- ) Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 5 seconds, the equivalent-at 55 mph-of driving the length of an entire football field, blind. (VTTI)
- ) Headset cell phone use is not substantially safer than hand-held use. (VTTI)
- ) A 2015 survey found one-third of all drivers admitted to texting while driving, three quarters say they have seen others do it.

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