



## **CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING / SAFETY TRAINING**

**Introduction:** Cell phone makers are investing huge amounts of money in research and development to make cell phones smaller, lighter and insurance. Enhanced hands-free items, along with the safety of a voice dialing system, are helping to overcome two potential dangers that **distracting drivers:**

- Single hand on the wheel and loss of attention while dialing a number. However, there are inherent dangers associated with cell phone use and the purpose of this talk is to discuss these dangers.

**California Distracted Driving laws summary:** In California drivers are not allowed to use mobile phones for calling, nor reading or writing text messages while driving on a public road.

**Exceptions:**

- Drivers may use cell phones for texting or calling in case they have a hands-free system installed.
- All drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using phones even with a handsfree system.
- Without hands-free capability, legally you can use mobile phones while driving if you are on private property, or in case of an emergency call to law enforcement or other similar service.
- To make an emergency call to a law enforcement agency, medical provider, fire department, or other emergency service agency.
- by those operating authorized emergency vehicles.
- by those operating vehicles on private property.

**Safety tips while using a cell phone:**

- Do not answer an incoming call if it is dangerous.
- Ask the passenger for help when making or receiving calls.
- It is preferable not to use a cell phone when driving. However, if decide to do so, use the hands-free devices offered by the cell phone manufacturers.
- Make sure the cell phone is near the driver's seat.
- If the conversation requires complex thinking or writing, step aside out of the way a safe place and end the conversation.
- Inform whoever is calling you, if they don't know, that you are using the phone cell phone and that you may be distracted and may need to interrupt the call to perform the driving task safely.
- Some states or municipal governments may prohibit the use of telephones cell phones while driving a vehicle. Review these regulations before to use the phone.



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**Conclusion:** Driving is your priority. A phone call is never more important to driving safely. Despite many technical advances, the most important element on the road is the driver. Always minimize the use of a cell phone when driving a motor vehicle and, if possible, do not operate a phone when driving.