



Idealease Safety Bulletin

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April is National Distracted Driving Month

More workers are killed every year in motor vehicle crashes caused by distracted driving than by any other cause.

What is distracted driving??

Distraction.gov defines distracted driving as **any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving.** Distractions may include: texting, talking on a cell phone, personal grooming, and eating and drinking. In 2009, 16% of fatal crashes and 20% of injury crashes involved a distracted driver (NHTSA). Reaction times are greatly affected by driver's texting or talking on the phone.



Sending or receiving a text message takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. That's the equivalent of driving the length of a football field blindly at 55 miles per hour! (VTTI). As a result of the dangers of distracted driving, 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam ban text messaging while operating a vehicle. Nine states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands have gone so far as banning all drivers of automobiles from using hand-held cellular devices while operating a vehicle (distraction.gov). The FMCSA has also banned texting in all Commercial Vehicles and has limited Cell Phone use to hands-free technology. (See article below)

Banning Distracted Driving: An Employer's Guide to Protect Employees and Liability

- Implement a clear policy indicating that the employer does not require employees to answer calls while they are on the road. This includes the employer placing calls to employees while they are driving.
- Encourage your employees to plan their trips to include stops so they can safely return calls and emails.
- Establish company policy that makes it unnecessary for employees to text while driving to fulfill their job duties.
- Eliminate any incentives that may encourage employees to text/talk while operating a vehicle.
- Communicate your state's regulations and associated fines to employees.
- Encourage employees to sign an anti-distracted driving pledge.
- Designate company vehicles as "distraction-free zones."

Cell Phone Regulation Limiting Cell Phone Use in a CMV Now in Place!

As of Tuesday January 3 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has enacted a rule prohibiting interstate truck drivers from using hand-held cell phones while operating their vehicles. 76 Federal Register 75470 (December 2, 2011)

The use of hands-free technology is still allowed under the new rule, however. Also, the rule does not prohibit the use of CB or two-way radios. If the device requires more than one click to receive or send a phone call the device is prohibited from use. Nextel "push to talk" cell phone/radios are prohibited.

The final rule prohibits commercial drivers in interstate commerce from using a hand-held mobile telephone while operating a commercial truck. Drivers who violate the restriction will face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle for multiple offenses. Additionally, for drivers in interstate or intrastate commerce, states will suspend a driver's commercial driver's license after two or more serious traffic violations.

In addition, intrastate CMV drivers would be subject to the disqualification regulations if their state or local laws have prohibitions against using hand-held mobile phone devices; all states must adopt such requirements within three years.



Registration is now open on line for the 2012 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminars!

Upcoming seminars for 2012:

- April 10- Springfield, IL
- April 11- Wausau, WI
- April 11- Harrisburg, PA
- April 12- Minneapolis, MN
- April 12- Philadelphia, PA
- April 18- Sacramento, CA
- April 19- San Leandro, CA
- April 19- Kansas City, KS
- April 24- Monroe, LA
- April 25- Tupelo, MS
- April 26- Memphis, TN
- May 2- Detroit, MI
- May 2- Charlotte, NC
- May 3- Bristol, IN
- May 3- Columbia, SC
- May 8- Grand Junction, CO
- May 10- Denver, CO
- May 23- Kelowna, BC

NEW FOR 2012 SEMINARS!!!!

This year during the seminar you will receive Drug and Alcohol Supervisor Training. This training meets the requirements of FMCSA CFR 382.603 that requires all supervisors of commercial motor vehicle drivers to have the training for reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing.

To register for a seminar click on:

www.Idealease.com/safety