



# Idealease Safety Bulletin

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## April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month!

Did you know your brain can miss seeing up to 50% of your driving environment when you talk on a cell phone? And, that according to research, drivers talking on cell phones had slower reaction times than drivers with a .08 blood alcohol content. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and is the perfect time for motor carriers to reinforce to their drivers the dangers of distracted driving and the rules and regulations being enforced by the FMCSA.



According to these regulations, Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) drivers are prohibited from texting or using hand-held mobile phones while operating their vehicles. Violations can result in fines and/or disqualifications and will impact a motor carrier's and/or driver's Safety Management System (SMS) results. Texting means manually entering alphanumeric text into, or reading text from, an electronic device. The rules also restrict a CMV driver from **reaching for** or **holding** a mobile phone to conduct a voice communication, as well as dialing by **pressing more than a single button**. CMV drivers who use a mobile phone while driving can only operate a hands-free phone located in close proximity. In short, the rule prohibits unsafely **reaching** for a device, **holding** a mobile phone, or **pressing** multiple buttons.

The rules impose sanctions for driver offenses, including civil penalties **up to \$2,750** and disqualification for multiple offenses. Motor carriers are also prohibited from requiring or allowing their drivers to text or use a hand-held mobile phone while driving and may be subject to civil penalties up to \$11,000. Violations will impact SMS results.



This month reinforce to CMV drivers the dangers of distracted driving. The National Safety Council offers tips for all drivers on staying safe all month. <http://ow.ly/hOYCS>

## FMCSA WARNS OF FRAUDULENT DRIVER “RECRUITERS”

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has published a warning to CDL drivers and to driver training schools about scams from persons calling themselves “recruiters” for motor carriers. The scammer will call a truck driving school or driver and represent himself or herself as a recruiter for a legitimate motor carrier. The caller has an air of urgency and “must hire” several CDL holders immediately or as soon as a student graduates



When a driver seeking employment calls the “recruiter” he or she is offered an immediate position with higher than industry norms pay and benefits for a new driver. The caller then requires the driver candidate to prove financial solvency by sending a wire transfer of \$350 or more to the “recruiter.” Victims are directed to travel to a location, often in another state than his or her residence, to be picked up by a company trainer and the pick-up does not occur.

## Now is the time to register for a 2013 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminar...Only 5 left to attend!

Idealease, its affiliates and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2013. The one day seminars this year will focus on basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. The seminars and will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals. To view the schedule and register for an upcoming seminar in 2013 click on the following link:

[www.Idealease.com/safety](http://www.Idealease.com/safety)

### 2013 Idealease/Safety Seminar Schedule

**23-Apr: Altoona, IA**  
**24-Apr: Oklahoma City, OK**  
**25-Apr: Chattanooga, TN**  
**25-Apr: Dallas, TX**  
**8-May: Denver, CO**



### NEW TO THE IDEALEASE SAFETY BULLETIN!

**There are new ways to sign up to begin receiving the Idealease Safety Bulletin!!**

- 1) Simply text the word **Idealease** to **42828** to sign up.**
- 2) Sign up by using our **Facebook** page**
- 3) Go to **Idealease.com/safety** and enter your email address**