



Idealease Safety Bulletin

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Holiday Driving Tips

Over the next few weeks, increased traffic, from last-minute shopping trips and social visits to family and friends, will impact road travel safety. Holiday traffic and unpredictable weather conditions make it more important than ever to tune-up on winter driving skills.



- 1.) Arrive safely – If you drink alcoholic beverages at holiday social events and parties make sure that you plan ahead to have a designated driver or utilize a taxi.
- 2.) Be aware of distracted drivers - Actions such as cell phone usage, eating/drinking, personal grooming or reading maps can take a driver's attention off the road. Always expect the unexpected and leave yourself a way out.
- 3.) Develop a driving emergency kit -Carry a blanket, flashlight, candles, matches, jumper cables and a shovel in your trunk. Kitty litter or sand is also useful to gain traction if you happen to get stuck.
- 4.) Keep headlights and tail lights clean - Dark winter days make it more difficult to see other motorists and pedestrians.



Turn headlights on at least a half hour before sunset to increase your visibility and keep windshields and mirrors clean to avoid glare. Do not look directly at oncoming headlights; instead avert your eyes to the right side of the road.

5.) Buckle up - Wear your safety belt properly every time you get behind the wheel, even for short distances.

6.) Be *especially* careful of parking lots and malls as you make your deliveries. Do not cross through lanes. Drive slowly and be prepared for the unexpected.

FMCSA/PHMSA PUBLISH RULE LIMITING CELL PHONE USE BY CMV DRIVERS

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration published a new final rule prohibiting interstate truck drivers from using hand-held cell phones while operating their vehicles. 76 Federal Register 75470 (December 2, 2011). The rule becomes effective January 3, 2012.

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.



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.

Drug and Alcohol Random Testing Rates to Remain the Same for 2012

DOT - Office of Drug & Alcohol Policy & Compliance (ODAPC) has announced that for the calendar year 2012 the random drug and alcohol testing rates within the transportation industries will stay the same as they were 2011.



You can view the notice from ODAPC

by clicking on the following link:

[2012_DOT_Random_Testing_Rates_Notice.pdf](#)