

Driving With A Cell Phone

- Cell phone users were four to five times more likely to have crashes than non-users.
- Cell phone units that allow the hands to be free offer no safety advantage over hand-held units.

The main factor in most motor vehicle collisions is driver inattentiveness.

Use Your Cell Phone Wisely:

While convenient, using cell phones while driving can be hazardous. The American Automobile Association offers these tips:

- Make sure your phone is mounted where you can easily reach it while driving. The phone should be within comfortable reach in your usual driving position and as close as possible to your line of vision.
- Know all the operations of your cellular phone and learn to use it without looking.
- Keep your attention on the road by programming frequently called numbers into the phone's memory to minimize dialing.
- Dial sensibly. Wait for a stoplight, pull off the road to dial or ask a passenger to dial for you.
- Don't use your cellular phone in distracting traffic situations. Pull off the road to make a call.
- Be careful about where you stop to make calls.
- When calling 9-1-1 to report an emergency, be prepared to provide the closest major cross streets or off-ramps, and know your cellular phone number.
- Use your voice mail to take calls or leave yourself messages. Never take notes while driving.
- Disconnect your cellular phone when using jumper cables; the power surge could burn out your phone.

A few states actually regulate cell phone use, including California, Florida, Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Minnesota. Oklahoma and Minnesota require police to include cell phone information in accident reports.

If You Must Call 9-1-1:

Call 9-1-1 from your cell phone **only** in true emergencies:

- Unreported collisions
- Any crime against you or another person
- A suspected drunk driver
- Any life-threatening event
- A vehicle or object blocking traffic lanes

Do not use 9-1-1 for situations such as:

- A stalled vehicle off the roadway
- A broken-down vehicle that is not a hazard
- Winter road conditions
- Testing your phone
- A stolen vehicle when nothing is known about the suspected thief
- Asking for directions

When you dial 9-1-1, the call from your cellular phone is routed to the appropriate emergency response authority. **Be prepared to provide:**

- Exact location of vehicle in distress
- Nature of emergency
- Your name and cellular number, including area code