



VITALS

A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals

Mike Szczygiel (Segal)
888-969-8033
meszczygiel@thomcoins.com

Driven To Distraction By Distracted Driving

Is anybody else sick of hearing that using handheld and hands-free cell phones or texting while driving is dangerous? There is plenty of scientific literature which shows handheld and hands-free phone use is equally dangerous, but lawmakers continue to treat hands-free cell phone use as safer. Texting while driving is just nuts. Speaking of nuts, a headset maker (Jabra) did a survey of 1,800 drivers in the US, four European countries, and one Asian country. Results of the survey revealed that people perform these actions while driving:

- 72% Eat
- 28% Text
- 25% Do Their Hair Or Change Clothes
- 13% Apply Make Up
- 12% Write Or Read E-mails
- 10% Read Papers Or Magazines
- 5% Play Video Games
- 5% Shave



Amazingly, 29% kissed while driving and 15% engaged in what we'll tactfully call more expressive acts of physical intimacy.

Drivers were asked to classify behaviors they performed while driving as low, medium or high risk. The low risk behaviors were pretty benign. Medium risk included: talking on the phone, texting, changing shoes, grooming (makeup, deodorant, perfume, doing hair, removing jewelry), kissing, taking off clothes, and brushing teeth. High risk included: using technology to write/read e-mails, play video games, watch a movie or browse the web; reading a book, newspaper or magazine; putting on clothes; shaving; and, engaging in sexual activity.



There are technical applications such as iZUP, tXtBlocker, CellSafety for smart phones. They use a handset's GPS to sense motion and block the sending and receipt of messages. Cellcontrol works on regular cell phones, but needs an additional transmitter. Technology can be used to mitigate the negative impact of technology. But isn't it really about behavior?

The irresponsible behaviors of the general public put our personnel and clients at risk. It is clear we must be hyper-vigilant on the road. Independent of the progress made in safe vehicle design, it will never be prudent to consider a vehicle as Personal Protective Equipment. The best defense against the unsafe behaviors of the public is the safe behavior of our drivers.



Sign Up for The EVOC - "T3" Train-the-Trainer Course

August 25-27 in Iowa, or September 22-24 in California

American Integrated Training Systems, Inc. (AITS) is conducting an EVOC Train the Trainer course in conjunction with the Delaware TWP Fire Department, August 25-27 in Des Moines, Iowa, and with San Diego Medical Service in San Diego, California on September 22-24. The course will qualify instructors to present the classroom portion of the training and provide an orientation to the practical driving exercises. Each participant will act as a student and coach for ambulance driving exercises. Cost is \$575 and registration closes August 20. For more information please contact Billy Rutherford at 703-440-0914 or brutherf@aitstraining.com.