



VITALS

A Weekly Safety Newsletter For Medical Transport Professionals

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Cell Phones Re-visited



Professor David Strayer from the University of Utah used driving simulators and sophisticated eye-tracking devices to see where a test driver is looking. While in a driving simulator, test subjects are told to pull over when they see a rest area. The rest area is about eight miles up the simulated road. With nobody talking the driver has a 100% success rate. When a passenger is talking the success rate drops to 90%. Test subjects talking on a cell phone drive by the area about 50% of the time. They just don't see it.



Lawmakers across the country have responded to the dangerous combination of cell phone use and driving: California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands have made talking on handheld cell phones while driving a primary enforcement offense. In other words, you can be ticketed for the cell phone use without committing any other traffic offense.

School Bus Drivers are not allowed to use cell phones when passengers are present, except in emergencies, in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Text Messaging has been outlawed in 4 states. Some states have laws that prohibit local jurisdictions (cities) from enacting cell phone laws.

Take the time to review your cell phone policy and make sure it is in compliance with applicable laws, but don't hesitate to apply common sense. There is nothing wrong with a Medical Transportation Provider having safety policies in place that exceed legislative standards.

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