



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
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Newsletter Article

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Get the Facts about Cell Phones

Did you know that over 35,000 cell phone citations have been issued since Delaware's hands free cell phone law went into effect in 2011? For some, using a cell phone, smart phone, or other electronic device is part of daily life. We depend on this technology not only for communication, but for a variety of other reasons that make it difficult to put it down, even for a short period of time. But there is risk involved with being distracted while you are behind the wheel.

OHS would like to remind you that using a cell phone or other device while driving is dangerous and may have deadly consequences. Consider these facts about crashes related to cell phone use:

- 55% are caused by a person under the age of 30.
- Males account for 55% of crashes and females 45%.
- Fridays have a much higher number of cell phone related crashes than any other days.
- Data shows that cell phone related crashes increase around lunch time and between 1 – 2 am, when bars close.

Delaware has primary laws that prohibit drivers from texting, or using handheld cell phones while driving unless they employ a hands-free device. Having a "primary law" means that an officer can ticket the driver for the offense without any other traffic violation taking place. Since the average fine is over \$100, it is best to turn off the phone and put it away until you have reached your destination. If you need to make a call or send a message, pull off the road to a safe location.

Remember, if you have a cell phone in one hand, you may have a ticket in the other. For more information about Delaware's cell phone law, see www.ohs.delaware.gov/cellphone. You can also find more information about distracted driving at www.distraction.gov.

Drive Safe. Arrive Alive DE.

