



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 13,000 citations were issued statewide to people using a hand-held cell phone while driving in 2012? 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 a dangerous and potential deadly combination.

- Nationally, distracted driving is responsible for 3,000 deaths a year.
- Cell phone related crashes in Delaware trend young. 54% of these crashes are caused by a person under the age of 30.
- Of people under 30, males account for 60% of the crashes and females account for 40%.
- 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 ALL 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