

Traffic Safety News
From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety
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Beginning today, the law restricting cell phone use goes into effect. OHS wants to remind you by making a few simple changes you can avoid unnecessary fines and make your daily commute a little bit safer.

What you need to know

Anything that takes your hands off the wheel, your eyes off the road, and your mind off the task of driving is considered a distraction. The new law will help you control the distractions within your own car, so you can focus your full attention on driving. Here is what you need to know:

- Drivers cannot use hand - held cell phones, pagers, PDAs, blackberrys, laptops, games or portable computers while driving.
- Drivers are not allowed to talk without using a hands-free device, read, write or send text messages, email or use the Internet while operating a motor vehicle.
- Drivers caught using a hand-held device will be fined \$50, with subsequent penalties reaching \$200.

What you can do

National research shows that driver's who are holding a cell-phone while driving are four times more likely to be involved in a crash that causes injury. Remember, the new law is about improving safety for everyone on the road...including you.

- **Use a hands-free device.** The law allows a driver to use a headset, speakerphone or other hands-free device to talk on a cell phone while driving. It also allows a driver to punch in a number or activate the hands-free device, but the driver must then put the phone down while talking.
- **Put aside the distractions.** The law prohibits the use of pagers, PDAs, Blackberrys, laptops, games or portable computers while driving, so put them aside until you arrive at your destination.
- **No excuses.** Drivers are not permitted to read, write or send texts or emails while driving or browse wirelessly. If you absolutely must read or respond to a text or email, pull off the road to a safe location.

This information is being sent to you by the Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to please drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other highway safety programs, visit www.ohs.delaware.gov