

Cell Phone Safety



On July 1, 2014, the fines for talking or texting on a hand-held wireless communications device increased. First time offenders now face a fine of at least \$200. The fine associated with a second offense increased to a minimum of \$400, and drivers who are caught a third time face a fine of at least \$600, a possible 90-day suspension of their driver's license, and (3) three motor vehicle penalty points.

Although it is discouraged, drivers may use a hands-free device if it does not interfere with standard safety equipment. "Use" of a wireless phone and any other hand-held communication device includes, but is not limited to, talking or listening to another person, texting, or sending and receiving electronic messages.

A hand-held phone may be used for an emergency only and the driver must keep one hand on the wheel at all times.

Cell Phone Safety Tips:

1. Turn your phone off or put ring on silent to avoid the urge to answer.
2. Put your phone in a secure location that is easy to reach, in case of emergency.
3. Never dial while driving, move to a safe area off of the road.
4. Prior to driving, store important contact information in your phone.
5. Use a hands-free unit, so that both of your hands are on the steering wheel at all times.
6. Become familiar with your phone's speed dialing and voice-activation features to minimize dialing.
7. Prior to driving, set up your voice-mail to take messages.