



## Distracted Driving Remains An Issue: Stay Safe



“People who text while driving are six times more likely to be involved in a car crash while those who talk on a mobile device while driving increase their crash risk more than two times.” This statement was recently published in an article by the Insurance Journal. The facts are simple, stay off your phone and stay alert while driving.

Why is it that so many folks still engage in these practices while driving when the risk is so high?? In a society based on instant gratification, there is a literal fear of missing out!!

States have adopted laws that require drivers to use hands-free devices. Did you know that more experienced drivers are the ones who tend to shy away from using their devices as the laws advises? That’s a scary fact thinking that the inexperienced and younger drivers are the ones who continue to text, talk and more when driving.

Ladies, we hate to break it to you, but studies have found that females are more likely than males to engage in mobile phone use while driving.

Talking on a mobile device increases crash risk by 2.2 times whereas texting increases risk by 6.1 times.

“Drivers are not good at identifying where it is safe to use their phone. It is safer for drivers to just pull over in an appropriate place to use their phone quickly and then resume their journey,” stated one of the authors, from a research study.

Cell phone carriers & phone brands alike have added safety features to help eliminate that urge to respond when a text is received. For instance, if you own an iPhone you can turn on a ***Do Not Disturb*** feature when driving. To do so, go to Settings—Do Not Disturb & scroll down until you see Do Not Disturb While Driving and set to Automatically Activate. The phone senses when you begin to drive & turns the feature on, subsequently turns the feature off once you are still.

Android users can use an app called “***Driving Detective***” which is based on the same Do Not Disturb feature used on an iPhone.

Insurance Carriers have recognized the need to reward drivers to shy away from cell phone use when driving. Safe Driver Discounts are offered with online courses and even apps that monitor your driving. Two of our carriers, Penn National & Progressive both offer these features.

Safe driving is rewarding in many ways, discounts from insurance are one reward but arriving safely to your destination is the best reward. Remember, staying alert is not only about your own safe driving habits but also being aware of those driving around you which can often be a greater hazard.

***Do you have tips for how you stay safe and undistracted? Feel free to share. If you need a bit more encouragement or want to see what kind of discounts your insurance carrier offers, give us a call to review your policy & coverage.***

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