



HELPING PUBLIC ENTITY EMPLOYEES STAY SAFE

April 2021

IT CAN WAIT: EYES ON THE ROAD, HANDS ON THE WHEEL

In 2019, one out of every five injured worker fatalities involved workers employed as a driver/sales worker or truck driver. Additionally, transportation incidents increased 2% in 2019 to a total of 2,122 cases, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The National Safety Council (NSC) reported that motor vehicle deaths in 2020 were the highest since 2007. The rate of driving fatalities increased 24% from 2019 to 2020, the highest increase in 96 years. That is in spite of the fact that the number of miles driven decreased 13%.

What's distracted driving?

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) "a distraction occurs when a driver diverts attention to something not related to driving that uses the driver's eyes, ears or hands."

There are four classifications of driver distractions:

- Visual – looking at something other than the road, such as a cell phone.
- Auditory – hearing something not related to driving, such as a passenger.
- Manual – manipulating something other than the wheel, such as vehicle controls.
- Cognitive – thinking about something other than driving, such as work deadlines.

Most distractions involve more than one of these types, with both a sensory – eyes, ears, or touch – and a mental component.

Over 700 people are injured in distracted driving-related crashes every day.

You can help make safe driving a priority professionally and personally to not only save lives but contribute to safer roadways for all.

Please share this information with your coworkers and your friends and families.

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Safety Shorts

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Avoid the Deadliest Distractions

Law enforcement agencies report the deadliest distractions occur from inside the vehicle. The deadliest distractions while driving include:

- Cell phone use;
- Moving objects in the vehicle;
- Adjusting vehicle devices/controls;
- Eating or drinking;
- Using or reaching for a device/object;
- Attention given to occupants inside the vehicle (talking or looking at others);
- Diverting attention to an outside person/object/event (rubbernecking); and
- General distractions (inattentive, daydreaming).

Take Action Today

Whether you're operating a vehicle for work or driving somewhere with your family, attentive driving can help keep our roads and each other safe.

CIS has [recommendations and tools](#) to reduce cell phone related distractions and a Toolbox for Safe Driving.

Additionally, you can find an excellent training course from Oregon Department of Transportation on Distracted Driving [HERE](#).

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission (NHTSC), three of the largest factors contributing to traffic collision fatalities include:

1. Not wearing a seat belt
2. Speed
3. Impaired driving

