

NO Text Message is **WORTH** a life!

CELL PHONES are one of the most quickly adopted technologies in history...

All distractions endanger the safety of drivers, passengers, and bystanders—but because text messaging requires **visual**, **manual**, and **cognitive** attention from the driver, it is by far the most dangerous distraction.

The percentage of drivers text-messaging or visibly manipulating handheld devices increased from 1.7 percent in 2013 to 2.2 percent in 2014!

As the texting trend continues grow, so does driver risk.

- The Occupational Safety & Health Administration warns: “When OSHA receives a credible complaint that an employer requires texting while driving or **who organizes work so that texting is a practical necessity**, we will investigate and where necessary issue citations and penalties to end this practice.”



Text messaging can increase the risk of a crash or near-crash by two times and results in drivers taking their eyes off the road for an average of 23 seconds total.



In a 2013 Texas survey, 44% of respondents reported reading or typing texts or emails while driving within a past month.



OUR DRIVING CONCERN
TEXAS EMPLOYER TRAFFIC SAFETY



Save a Life
Texas Department of Transportation

txdrivingconcern.org

Life-saving DECISIONS

AS A DRIVER, you can make the lifesaving decision to stop all cell phone use behind the wheel, including texting.

AS A PHONE USER, you also have the power to stop a conversation if someone calls **you** while he or she is driving.

AS A PASSENGER, you have the right to speak up and ask a driver not to use their cell phone on the road.

The National Safety Council encourages businesses to educate employees on the increased risk of texting or talking on a cell phone while driving. Employees should know the dangers and refrain from checking e-mail or conducting business behind the wheel.

NSC has developed a comprehensive **Cell Phone Policy Kit** to help employers build leadership support and communicate to employees the risks and need for a cell phone policy. To download the kit for **FREE**, visit distracteddriving.nsc.org.

- Pull over and park in a safe location if a call or text is absolutely necessary.
- Change your voice mail greeting to inform callers you are on the road and will return their call when you can do so safely.

txdrivingconcern.org

The National Safety Council® recommends businesses ban cell phone use while driving among employees. Visit us at txdrivingconcern.org for more FREE resources and information on what you can do to encourage your employees to drive safely.

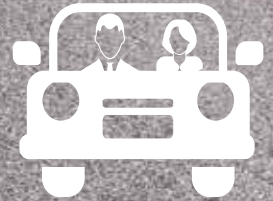
DATA SOURCES

Texas Dept. of Transportation; National Safety Council; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Distraction.gov; OSHA –<https://www.osha.gov/distracted-driving>

A program of the National Safety Council in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. © 2016 National Safety Council. All rights reserved.

How is using a hands-free device more dangerous than just talking to a passenger?

While talking on a cell phone, you can't read non-verbal cues—so you focus more attention on the conversation. This distracts your mind from focusing on driving. Also, **passengers can see your driving environment**. They are aware of the situation around you and will tend to adjust the conversation to fit the risk level of driving. A passenger can even serve as an additional lookout for hazards, like a co-pilot.



Primary enforcement laws allow police to stop you and cite you for an observed violation of the local hands-free cell phone law. The police officer does not need to have some other reason to stop you, such as your tail light being out or speeding.

