

Cell Phone Use and Driving

By Kaylin Seeley

Cell phone use while driving has become an epidemic in America and is one of the primary causes of car accidents. According to drivers.com, distracted driving is the third most common reason for car accidents in America, which includes cell phone use. Additionally, drivers.com also says that drivers who use hand-held devices while behind the wheel are four-times more likely to get into an accident than those who do not use hand-held devices while driving a vehicle. There are other alternate means of communicating while driving a car other than using a hand-held device.

In the state of California, texting and driving is illegal, as well as talking on the phone. However, using a hands-free device is legal and encouraged as a means of communication while driving. This helps to prevent distracted driving and, therefore, car accidents due to using hand-held devices such as cell phones. Using a hands-free device to talk on the phone is safer because the driver can keep both hands on the wheel and will not be distracted by sounds or notifications from the phone since those sounds will notify the driver through the car. There are cons to using a hands-free device to talk on the phone in the car, however. According to the Washington Post, a study done to test the affects of using hands-free devices while driving showed that only two out of 30 drivers passed a driver's test while talking on the phone. The National Safety Council claims that the issue is more mental because drivers can overlook 50% of what is happening around them when they are talking on the phone while driving, even if it is a hands free device.

Cell phone use and driving is a constant debate, and numerous studies have been done to prove to society that it is dangerous, however, it will be difficult to stop until we proactively do something about it. Texting, talking on the phone, using social media, and so on while driving can have potentially life-threatening effects on drivers. A solution has not yet been found to this problem, but every year new propositions are given to help the problem.