

## Dangers of distracted driving

- Distracted driving crashes killed more than 5,400 people and injured nearly 500,000 in 2009.
- Researchers report that texting while driving claimed more than 16,000 lives from 2001 to 2007.
- Reaction time is delayed for a driver talking on a cell phone as much as it is for a driver who is legally drunk.
- Drivers who are texting take their eyes off the road 400% more than when they are not texting.
- More texting leads to more crashes. With each additional 1 million text messages, fatalities from distracted driving rose more than 75%.



## Healthier Workers Safer Workplaces A Stronger America.

"It is well recognized that texting while driving dramatically increases the risk of a motor vehicle injury or fatality. We are asking employers to send a clear message to workers and supervisors that your company neither requires nor condones texting while driving."

David Michaels, PhD, MPH  
Assistant Secretary  
Occupational Safety and  
Health Administration

If you have questions or need more information,  
contact OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).  
TTY 1-877-889-5627.



**MORE WORKERS  
ARE KILLED  
EVERY YEAR IN  
MOTOR VEHICLE  
CRASHES THAN ANY  
OTHER CAUSE.**

**Businesses can  
help solve this  
big problem.**

## Workers' safety is your business

Texting while driving puts millions of Americans who drive on the job at risk every day. That risk continues to grow as texting becomes more widespread.

As a business owner or manager, it's your legal responsibility under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* to safeguard drivers at work.

This holds true whether they drive full-time or only occasionally to carry out their work, and whether they drive a company vehicle or their own. When your workers are behind the wheel doing your company's work, their safety is your business.

That's why the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which enforces worker safety laws, has joined with the Transportation Department, other Labor Department agencies and key associations and organizations to enlist the help and cooperation of businesses – large and small – in a nationwide outreach, education, and enforcement effort to stop the dangerous practice of texting while driving.

OSHA is prepared to act quickly. When OSHA receives a credible complaint that an employer requires texting while driving or organizes work so that texting is a practical necessity, we will investigate and will issue citations and penalties where necessary to end this practice.

## Safety at work is no accident

Building a workplace culture of safety requires clear, explicit policies and sound practices. Send a clear message to workers and supervisors that your company neither requires nor condones texting while driving.

### Employers should:

- Prohibit texting while driving. OSHA encourages employers to declare their vehicles "text-free zones" and to emphasize that commitment to their workers, customers, and communities.
- Establish work procedures and rules that do not make it necessary for workers to text while driving in order to carry out their duties.
- Set up clear procedures, times, and places for drivers' safe use of texting and other technologies for communicating with managers, customers, and others.
- Incorporate safe communications practices into worker orientation and training.
- Eliminate financial and other incentive systems that encourage workers to text while driving.



## How OSHA helps

OSHA's distracted driving web page ([www.osha.gov/distracted-driving/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/distracted-driving/index.html)) provides useful resources, including:

- a model policy to use or adapt for your business
- information about how employers are combating this hazard
- research findings
- educational materials

The U.S. Department of Transportation website ([www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov)) provides updates and information on the national campaign to prevent distracted driving.

### Additional assistance

OSHA's consultation program can help small and medium-sized businesses, at no cost, keep workers safe by providing:

- free and confidential advice
- on-site consultation
- assistance with identifying workplace hazards
- advice on compliance with OSHA standards
- assistance with safety and health programs

To learn more about how OSHA can help, visit [www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov) or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742). TTY 1-877-889-5627.