

Cell Phone Use & Motor Vehicles



- Cell phone use is the leading driver distraction in Utah, accounting for 18.1% of the 16,532 distracted driving crashes from 2007-2009. (Source: 2009 Utah Department of Public Safety)

In Utah during 2007

- Drivers distracted by cell phones were 1.9 times likely to be ages 15-29 years compared to all drivers in crashes. (Source: 2007 Crash Report Utah Department of Public Safety)
- Crashes involving a cell phone distracted driver were 1.4 times more likely to result in an injury when compared to all crashes. (Source: 2007 Crash Report Utah Department of Public Safety)
- 22.5% of Utah drivers 15-19 years of age who were involved in a crash were using a cell phone. They were four times more likely to be involved in a distraction-related crash than any other age group. (Source: 2007 Crash Report Utah Department of Public Safety)

According to the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

- Over 46% of Utah students, grades 9-12, report cell phone use and texting on a daily basis while driving each day. (Source: 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- Over 75% of Utah students in grade 12 report cell phone use and texting on a daily basis while driving each day. (Source: 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey)

According to Cell Phone Studies

- A study by the University of Utah found that drivers who talk on handheld or hands-free cell phones are just as impaired as drunk drivers with a 0.08 blood-alcohol level. (Source: Strayer, D L, Drews, F.A, Crouch, D.J. A comparison of the cell phone driver and the drunk driver. Human Factors, 2006: 48; 381-391.)
- Talking on a cell phone while driving, even if it's hands-free, impairs driving ability. (Source: Just, MA, Keller, TA, Cynkara, JA. Decrease in brain activation associated with driving when listening to someone speak. Brain Research, 2008: 1205; 70-80.)
- Numerous studies show cell phone use impairs driving abilities of young adults. Drivers who used cell phones have 18% slower reaction times while driving and a two-fold increase in the number of rear-end crashes. (Source: Strayer, DL, Drews FA. Profiles in Driver Distraction: Effects of Cell Phone Conversations on Younger and Older Drivers. Human Factors, 2004: 46(4); 640-649.)