DISTRACTED DRIVING

We have all seen it, a distracted driver weaves on the freeway while texting, or runs a stop sign while using a cell phone. It is a national epidemic and it is against the law. At http://www.distraction.gov/content/lets-talk, watch stories of how a few seconds of distracted driving can destroy a life, a family and the friends of accident victims.

Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of occupational fatalities. Many of these accidents were the direct result of distracted driving. Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. Examples of distractions include cell phone use, eating, drinking, grooming, using a navigation system and adjusting a music/audio player. Text messaging is by far the most serious distraction of them all because it requires visual, manual and cognitive attention from the driver.

ADDITIONAL KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

- At any given daytime moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving.
- In 2012, 3328 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers and an additional 421,000 people were injured.
- Sending or receiving a text message takes the driver’s eyes away from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds which is the equivalent of driving the entire length of a football field blind at 55 mph.
- California Vehicle Code states, “A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication.”
- California Vehicle Code also states, “A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless the phone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking.”
- Hands-free cell phone use is not substantially safer than hand-held use.

To educate your employees on the hazards and risks involved with distracted driving, the following resources are available:


If you already have an existing policy in place, please document and ensure that all City drivers and employees that have been issued City cell phones have read and signed the policy. If you wish to implement a new Distracted Driving policy, a sample policy is attached.

If you have any questions or concerns contact City Safety Engineer, Allan Tan at 213-473-6981.
SAMPLE DISTRACTED DRIVING POLICY

Please read the Distracted Driving Policy, sign and return to________________.

To increase employee safety and eliminate unnecessary risks behind the wheel, the ______________ Department has enacted a Distracted Driving Policy, effective ____________. The ______________ Department is committed to ending the epidemic of distracted driving and has created the following rules that apply to any employee operating a City vehicle or using a City-issued cell phone while operating a personal vehicle:

- Employees may not use any hand-held cell phone or other portable electronic devices while operating a City vehicle, or use a City-issued cell phone, if the vehicle is in motion, stopped in traffic, or at a traffic light/sign. This includes phone calls, reading or responding to e-mails, instant/text messages, internet use, listening to music and using navigation systems. Exception: To call 911 for an emergency.
- If employees need to use their phones, they must pull over safely to a legal parking location.
- Employees can and should consider turning cell phones off before starting their vehicles.
- Employees can and should consider modifying voice mail greetings to indicate that they are unavailable to answer calls or return messages while driving. Employees can inform fellow employees and associates of this policy as an explanation of why calls may not be returned immediately.
- Failure to adhere to this policy can result in disciplinary action.

I acknowledge that I have received a written copy of the Distracted Driving Policy and fully understand and agree to abide by these terms.

__________________________                                                  ______________
Employee Signature                                                                      Date

__________________________                                                   _____________
Employee Name (Print)                                                                  Employee ID #