

Texting and Driving

Alarming Facts

Texting and Driving Traffic

Safety Issues: Seat belt use, impaired driving, red light running, speeding, aggressive driving and distracted driving

88 percent of people think that texting or emailing while driving is a serious safety threat:



Cell phones cause an average of **1.4 million crashes** each year

Crashes are the **number one** cause of workplace death

Using a phone while driving makes drivers **four times more likely to crash:** risks are even higher with texting and emails

30-39 year-olds have the **highest proportion of cell phone distraction** in fatal crashes

Laws

Michigan Law:

- Prohibits drivers from reading, typing, or sending texts while driving
- Defines driving as: operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway
- Is a primary enforcement law, meaning an officer can make a stop if he or she observes a texting driver
- Makes exceptions for reporting crashes, crimes or other emergencies
- \$100 fine for first offense, \$200 each time after
- Does not assess any points



Other Laws:

- Cover careless driving, reckless driving, reckless driving causing death, moving violation
- moving violation causing death

What It All Means

Why Employees Are Concerned:

- Safety: Cell phone use while driving is the most significant distraction leading to crashes
- Brand: Want to be seen as "doing what is right" in the eyes of the public
- Money: Companies seek solutions to enforce cell phone policies to protect themselves from liability and increased insurance premiums

Big Picture:

- If an employee acting within the scope of employment causes injury through negligent conduct, the victim and/or its family has the right to sue the employer directly for damages
- If an employee operates a vehicle negligently as a result of using a cell phone and injures or kills another motorist or pedestrian, the victim or the family may directly sue the employer



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