

Connecticut State Police
T I P S
Topics in Public Safety

**DISTRACTED
DRIVING**

Traveling on local roads and highways requires that drivers use skill and concentration at all times. Driving safely should always be the first priority for all licensed motor vehicle operators.



Some distractions, no matter how seemingly minor, may impair the critical skills essential for safe driving. Such distractions can result in traffic accidents with injuries or fatalities. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 25% of all crashes involve some form of driver distraction.

The Connecticut State Police remind all motorists that their primary obligation when they get behind the wheel of a car should be to obey the rules of the road and drive safely.

Pull over and stop if:

- Children require attention.
- Pets interfere with the driver's vision or vehicle control.
- You must read a map or write notes or directions.
- You need to talk on a cell phone.

To avoid distractions while driving, all drivers should:

- Use a hands-free device for cell phones.
- Never read maps, newspapers or other materials.
- Never attempt to remove coats or change clothes.
- Conduct personal grooming (shaving, applying makeup, styling hair) after arriving at their destination.
- Never engage in conversations with passengers that divert their concentration.
- Ensure children are properly restrained before a car is in motion.
- Not attempt to pick up lost or fallen items.
- Adjust controls, such as radio, mirrors or temperature, before the car is in motion.

On October 1, 2005, Connecticut adopted a law prohibiting the use of hand-held cell phones by drivers. Violators will be fined; only hands free phones are permitted.

Because cell phone usage has the potential to contribute to poor driving, the new law allows police to impose an additional \$100 fine for some moving violations (speeding, tailgating, reckless driving, etc.) if the officer believes that the use of a hand-held cell phone impaired the motorist's driving.



In addition, school bus drivers and motorists under the age of 18 are prohibited from using any cell phone (even hands-free) except for emergency use.



Compliments of:

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