

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Distracted Driving - PART 2

The Florida Department of Transportation and its safety partners want you to know everything you can to help end distracted driving. Here are some frequently asked questions to share with friends and family.

1. Is it safe to use hands-free (headset, speakerphone, or other device) cell phones while driving?

The available research indicates that whether it is a hands-free or hand-held device, the cognitive distraction is significant enough to degrade a driver's performance. The driver is more likely to miss key visual and audio cues needed to avoid a crash.

2. Is talking on a cell phone any worse than having a conversation with someone in the car?

Some research findings show both activities to be equally risky, while others show cell phone use to be more risky. A significant difference between the two is the fact that a passenger can monitor the driving situation along with the driver and pause for, or alert the driver to, potential hazards, whereas a person on the other end of the phone line is unaware of the roadway situation.

3. What are the laws against distracted driving?

Every state has different laws related to distracted driving. In Florida, Preemption Law prohibits local governments from enacting distracted driving bans. But every person can make a difference...contact your local and state legislators to help change the laws in Florida.

4. What can I do to combat this problem?

There are several steps that you can take. You can start by setting a better example for your kids and coworkers, discussing the dangers of distracted driving openly and finding out more about the problem so you can inform yourself and others.

Join FDOT and its partners and make the safety pledge. No message, no phone call, nothing is worth driving while distracted. Next time you're behind the wheel, just **PUT IT DOWN.** For more information please visit us online at

www.distraction.gov.



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