

AT THE END OF THE WORKDAY, EVERYONE GOES HOME SAFE.

Distracted Driving

Toolbox Talk



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April is Distracted Driving Awareness month. This is an important subject to be reminded of, as texting while driving is one of the most dangerous things you can do. In Fact, you are six times more likely to crash while texting than you are while driving drunk. That is not a free pass to drive drunk, rather a warning that distracted driving can be just as (if not more) dangerous, especially when working in the construction industry.

“Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds. Traveling at 55 mph, that’s enough time to travel the length of a football field..”

Distractions in the workplace have always presenting challenges, but cell phones have created a whole new level of distractedness. Putting you and your team at risk of workplace related accidents as well as decreased productivity.

Statistics about Cellphone Use and Driving:

- The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.
- In the U.S. in 2018, over 2,800 people were killed, and an estimated 400,000 were injured in crashes involving a

- distracted driver. (CDC)
- Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving.
- 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.
 - Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds. Traveling at 55 mph, that’s enough time to travel the length of a football field.
- Texting while driving causes a 400% increase in time spent with eyes off the road.

Mitigation Actions for Distracted Driving:

- Put the cell phone down while driving.
- Put your cellphone on airplane mode if needed to eliminate distractions as well as the urge to answer a text, call, or email alert.
- If you need to text or call while driving, pull over to a safe area to do so.
- When traveling as a passenger, urge any driver who is using their cellphone to put it down.
- If there is another driver on the road who is using a phone while driving, maintain a safe

distance from them and be a defensive driver. Always leave yourself an out in case an accident occurs around your vehicle.

Real Life Incident:

An employee was operating a Raymond Reach Model 730/750-R45TT Forklift in reverse while picking an order. His scanner dropped into the operator’s compartment, and he reached down to get it, accidentally turning and hitting a cross beam in the process. The employee was pinned between the cross beam and the PIV. He suffered multiple blunt force injuries and later died.

Talking Points:

1. Has distracted driving impacted anyone you know?
2. What is our company’s cell phone/electronics policy while on the job?
3. Do you know how to use the do-not-disturb-while-driving feature on your device? Is that feature part of our company policy?

