

**F**or **Y**our **D**riving



## The Risk of Cell Phone Use While Driving

Can you imagine a dentist or a doctor using a cell phone while performing surgery, or a commercial airline pilot using a cell phone during take-off or landing? These examples would never be condoned. Using a cell phone while driving, whether it's hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reaction as much as having a blood alcohol content of .08 %, and driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 %.

A recent article from Cellular-News.com indicates that 50 countries have banned cell phone use while driving. For example, in Norway the fine for driving while using a cell phone is greater than \$600 per infraction, and in the Netherlands the fines are up to \$2,000 or two weeks in jail.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed a safety regulation that would specifically prohibit interstate commercial truck and bus drivers from using hand-held cell phones while operating a commercial motor vehicle. Although the rule is in the proposal stage, currently 9 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using handheld cell phones while driving.

When you are driving and your cell phone rings you naturally want to answer the call, because everyone wants to stay informed, but is it worth killing or injuring someone or yourself?

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