

MAFES Dawg Tracks

April 11, 2016



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*Safety Tips:
Be Careful When
Using Your Cell Phone*

According to the Pew Research Center in their October 2014 study:

- 90% of American adults own a cell phone.
- 64% of Americans own a smart phone.
- 42% own a tablet computer.

The National Safety Council (NSC) reports that:

- Cell phone use leads to 1.5 million crashes each year.
- 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving.
- Texting while driving is six times more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk.
- 74% of drivers support a ban on hand-held phone use.

These are just a few of the startling statistics of the dangers related to cell phone use while driving, including texting. The numbers for teenage cell phone use are as startling as those involving adults only.

INCREASED USE OF CELL PHONES-

- ✓ As noted above, the use of cell phones is becoming more and more common in the USA. Tens of millions of people in the USA are using cellphones for pleasure and business.
- ✓ **There are many benefits for having a cell phone:**
 - Enables you to talk to someone while changing locations.
 - Extremely useful in emergency situations. Enables you to get help when you are on location of an accident or incident.
 - Supervisors or managers can communicate with employees without having to move them from their work.

DANGERS OF CELL PHONE USE-

While cell phones are an important tool, they also have a down side:

- Assume you are pruning or cutting with a sharp tool and your cell phone rings. Answering it will divert your focus from your chore and you may receive a dangerous injury.
- Using your cell phone while you're driving any type of vehicle diverts your attention, so watch the road and let the phone rest!

Because of the dangers listed above and other dangers that might happen, there are certain rules that we have to follow when using a cell phone:

CELL PHONE SAFETY TIPS-

- ✓ Avoid using your cell phone in hazardous conditions, like heavy traffic or inclement weather conditions.
- ✓ Unless you're in an emergency situation, pull over and park before making a cell phone call on the road.
- ✓ If you're operating farm equipment in the field or on a road, come to a complete stop before making or taking the call.
- ✓ Do not attempt to make a call while carrying a sharp instrument. A small distraction can throw you out of focus and may cause you to have a serious injury.
- ✓ If it becomes imperative that you have to make cell phone calls while on the job, keep them short and try to avoid stressful or emotional subjects.
- ✓ Get totally familiar with any cell phone that you might use and get fully acquainted with all their functions.
- ✓ If you're buying a personal cell phone get one that has the lowest possible radiation rating.
- ✓ Follow all state and local rules regarding cell phone use. If you're unfamiliar with the laws and regulations, ask your supervisor for help.
- ✓ Use your cell phone to assist others when and if they are in trouble.

CELL PHONE SAFETY DO'S AND DON'TS:

DO:

- Use your cell phone to assist others in emergency situations.
- Keep your conversations brief and avoid stressful or emotional topics if you are using the cell phone at work.
- Become familiar with the laws and regulations governing cell phone use while driving.

DON'T:

- Answer a cell phone call if you're carrying a sharp tool.
- Talk on a cell phone when you are driving in hazardous conditions.
- If you are authorized to use a cell phone in your work, ask your supervisor for permission to buy a hands-free device to use when you are on the road.

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201
Excerpts: www.gemplers.com
<https://www.edgarsnyder.com>
<http://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheets>
1/12/2016

**SAFETY RULES ARE YOUR
BEST TOOLS**

** ** ** ** **

**INVEST IN TOMMOROW-
PRACTICE SAFETY TODAY!!**