



Coalition^{for} **Cellphone-Free Driving**

Quick Facts About Cellphone Use While Driving

The Problem:

- In Alberta, 6 people die and nearly 500 people are injured every week in traffic collisions across the Province⁽¹⁾
- Driver distraction is responsible for 25% to 30% of these collisions⁽²⁾
- Cellphone use while driving is a major distraction⁽²⁾

The Evidence:

- In a recent Australian study
 - 68% of people reported using a cellphone while driving
 - Using a cellphone while driving increased the risk of traffic collisions 4 times^(3,4)
- In Canada
 - Redelmeier et al found that talking on a cellphone while driving increased the risk of motor vehicle crashes 4 times⁽³⁾
- In the United States, published State Statistics⁽²⁾ show that cellphone use contributed to:
 - 22 car crashes per week in 2001 in Texas
 - 14 car crashes per week in 2002 in California
 - 18 car crashes per week in 2003 in Michigan

Is Hands-free Risk-free?

- Whether hand-held or hands-free, cellphone use while driving increases the risk of traffic collisions 4 times⁽³⁾



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Talking on the phone is the issue:

- Numerous experimental studies demonstrate that:
 - Using a cellphone while driving slows the driver's reaction time by 18%⁽⁵⁾
 - Cellphone use increases the risk of rear-end collisions by twofold⁽⁵⁾
 - Using a cellphone while driving reduces visual field attention⁽⁶⁾
 - Cellphone conversation increases the probability of missing red lights⁽⁷⁾
 - Talking to a passenger is different because a passenger can see the traffic situation and adapt the conversation accordingly or warn the drivers of an imminent danger

Employers Have a Responsibility:

- Employers could be liable for motor vehicle collisions involving their employees who were using cellphones while driving
- In Miami, a jury awarded a woman \$20.9 million in 2001 after she was injured in a car crash caused by a salesman making a cellphone call between appointments^(8,9)
- A \$30 million lawsuit was filed against the law firm Cooley Godward when one of their associates while driving and talking on a cellphone fatally ran over a 15-year old girl in March of 2000^(8,9)

References

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