

SAFE DRIVING IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

YOUR DECISIONS DRIVE YOUR SAFETY

PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE. AND YOUR BUSINESS.

Next to home, there is no better place to instill core safety values than in the workplace. If you have company drivers, you are most likely dialed in on the dangers of cell phone use while driving and the potential liability of your driver being the cause of a distracted-driving crash.

But did you know that generally speaking, any employee is acting within the scope of employment if his or her conduct benefits the employer—in any way?

Courts have routinely allowed claims against employers to proceed in court, even when a crash occurred when employees were¹:

- Driving after normal business hours
- On the way to a personal event
- Sightseeing on a business trip
- Operating a personal vehicle and/or using a personal cell phone

Additionally, employees who do the following while driving put their safety, the safety of other road users, and the employer's bottom line at risk—even if on a personal device and driving a personal vehicle:

- Participate in conference calls
- Talk by phone with managers or coworkers
- Read or respond to work-related email
- Conduct any type of business

TOTAL COSTS BY BEHAVIOR TYPE²



Speeding

\$8.4 billion



Distracted Driving

\$8.2 billion



Alcohol

\$6 billion



Not Wearing Seat belt

\$4.9 billion

Although there are many things that contribute to distracted driving, according to the National Safety Council, the use of cell phones occurs with such frequency and duration that it is more likely to lead to a crash or near-crash than other forms of distraction.

NO FLEET SAFETY LEADER HAS TO GO IT ALONE

NETS members have collaborated on strategies when faced with challenges, and many are regularly invited to speak at safety conferences to share their case studies covering topics like:

- Preparing employees for a global total cell phone ban
- Enforcing a cell phone policy
- Extending the policy to contractors
- Communicating the policy to family members

"It will take a cultural change for drivers to understand that their safety depends on disconnecting from deadly distractions."

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
Most Wanted List 2016

CELL PHONE POLICIES ARE CONTINUALLY EVOLVING

Rolling out and enforcing a cell phone policy, particularly in a global operation, can be a challenge.

Policies come in various forms:

- Some ban hand-held devices, while others implement a total ban (hand-held and hands-free.)
- Some organizations' cell phone bans extend to all vehicles while on company property (i.e., employees driving their own vehicles to/from work, as well as visitors.)
- Some extend policies to contractors or vendors working on behalf of the company.
- Some have policies that extend to employee family members who are permitted to drive the company vehicle.

Nearly all NETS members have some form of cell phone and/or distracted driving policy in place.

- 56% ban the use of hand-held devices
- 37% ban all cell phones- hand-held and hands-free
- 3% ban texting only

THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS®

When it comes to implementing, enforcing and sustaining a cell phone policy, there may not be a one-size-fits-all solution, but having a network with which to collaborate and work through challenges can make all the difference. If you would like to know more about NETS and its network of fleet safety professionals, visit:

<http://trafficsafety.org/membership-information>.

¹Aegis Mobility white paper: Employee Distracted Driving- Understanding Your Business Risk and Liability, 2013. See document for specific case citations- <http://www.aegismobility.com/distracted-driving/images/research/whitepapers/Distracted-Driving-Business-Risk-White-Paper-Aegis-Mobility.pdf> *2013 Data. See Tables 9, 8, 7 and 5 in The Cost of Motor Vehicle Crashes to Employers-2015** <http://trafficsafety.org/road-safety-resources/public-resources/cost-of-motor-vehicle-crashes-to-employers-2015/>