



Restrictions on Mobile Communications While Driving – HB 2377

FACT SHEET

December 2009

Background

HB 2377 aims to reduce distractions for drivers so Oregon roads are safer for everyone. It specifically prohibits drivers from using a mobile communications device for talking or texting while driving unless the driver meets a specific exemption. Those in violation face a minimum fine of \$142 (Class D violation). The law goes into effect January 1, 2010.

Safety is our #1 goal

The Oregon Department of Transportation encourages drivers to focus on the task at hand: driving safely from one point to the next. Drivers should avoid *any* kind of distraction, not just mobile communication devices. Reported cases of cell phone usage causing crashes are low, due in part to self-reporting. National studies are showing, however, that using a cell phone creates a distraction...**and distracted driving is unsafe driving.**

Key elements

- **Covers drivers of all ages.** Drivers age 18 and over can only use a mobile communications device while driving if they are using a hands-free accessory. Drivers under age 18 are prohibited from using all mobile communication devices, whether hands-free or not. Emergencies are an exception.
- **Offers some exemptions for devices used in scope of employment.** HB 2377 exempts some drivers who use a mobile communications device while driving if the vehicle is necessary for the person's job, and some drivers who use radios (CB-style) while in the scope of their employment. Learn more about the exemptions by reading the text of the law.
- **It's a primary offense.** This means law enforcement personnel can stop a driver solely for using a mobile communications device without using a hands-free accessory.
- **Most importantly, avoid distracted driving of all types!**

And for safety's sake, remember to pull over to a safe place, such as a rest area or a parking lot, if you need to make or take a call or address any other distraction.

