

Work Zone & Distracted Driving Fact Sheet

37,261 people died on America's Roads in 2008 and another 2.4 million were injured. **1,231 died on New York's roads alone!**¹

Try working in this environment!

- 🚧 Over the **past 5 years** more than **4,400 people died** and **200,000 were injured** in work zone crashes.²
- 🚧 In **2008** alone, there were **720 work zone fatalities** and over **40,000 injuries** in work zones.¹
- 🚧 A **work zone fatality** occurs **every ten hours** (2.3 / day) and an **injury every 13 minutes** (110 / day).²
- 🚧 In **2009**, the **NYS DOT** construction and maintenance work zones experienced **511 crashes**, with **12 fatalities** and **173 injury accidents** (single AND multiple injuries per accident).³
- 🚧 Since 1983, **45 CSEA members** have been **killed in work zones**, half of which were caused by the traveling public.⁴
- 🚧 It's **getting worse**, cell phones and other **distractions** are causing more problems than ever.

Distracted Driving Kills

- 🚧 At any given time, **812,000** vehicles are being driven by someone using a hand-held cell phone.¹
- 🚧 Distracted drivers **kill almost 6,000 people** and injure another 515,000 each year.¹
- 🚧 Every year, more and more people are killed by distracted drivers.¹
- 🚧 By far, the largest age group of distracted drivers are 20 and under accounting for the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.⁵
- 🚧 More than half of drivers aged 16 -17 admit to talking on a cell phone while driving. Almost 50% of all teens admit to being in a car with the driver texting, & 40% admit the behavior placed them or others in danger.¹²



Distracted Driving Reduces Your Ability to Drive

- 🚧 Distracted driving **delays** a driver's **reaction time** similar to being legally **drunk**.⁶
- 🚧 Driving while using a cell phone **decreases** the amount of **brain activity** by **37%**.⁷
- 🚧 Drivers using a hand-held cell phone are 4 times more likely to be involved in a crash with serious injuries.⁸
- 🚧 Studies show that **drivers who text and drive are 8 to 23 times** more likely to be involved in an accident.^{9,6}
- 🚧 Using a cell phone increases the rate of rear-end collisions, decreases brake time by 10%, and causes a 25% increase in erratic driving.⁶

Distracted Driving Isn't Just Talking or Texting

Three Categories of Distractions:¹⁰

1. Visual distractions--taking your eyes off the road.
2. Manual distractions--taking your hands off the wheel.
3. Cognitive distractions--taking your mind off what you are doing.

Talking on a cell phone or texting combines all three types of distractions!!!

Examples of Distractions: talking on a cell phone, texting, eating, drinking, in-car conversations, interacting with in-car technologies (radio), other portable electronic devices (GPS), applying make-up, shaving, reading maps.

It doesn't matter if it's a "hand-free" device or not. Using any phone is just as dangerous while driving.¹¹

What Can You Do?

- 🚧 Don't Zone Out in work zones!
- 🚧 Obey posted speed limits.
- 🚧 Put the phone down and drive.
- 🚧 Never send or read text messages while driving.
- 🚧 In work zones, focus only on your driving.
- 🚧 If someone calls you while they are driving, hang up on them.
- 🚧 Sign up for CSEA's **Don't Zone Out** Pledge at csealocal1000.org.

