



To all City employees

March 1, 2017

Re: Cell phones

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, "from 2009 to 2012, distracted driving was the primary cause of 30,819 collisions and 130 fatalities in Ontario."

According to the OPP, in 2013 there were 78 deaths due to distracted driving (compare that to 57 for impaired driving and 44 for deaths due to speed-related accidents) making distracted driving the number one cause of deaths on roadways.

You're 23 times more likely to be in a crash or a near crash.

5 seconds is the minimum amount of time your eyes are off the road.

Driver distraction is a factor in about 4 million motor vehicle crashes in North America each year.

Economic losses caused by traffic collision-related health care costs and lost productivity are at least \$10 billion annually.

Tips to avoid distraction

There are many simple steps you can take to avoid being distracted while you drive:

- Use your cell phone only when you're parked, or have a passenger take the call.
- Let calls go to voicemail.
- Turn off your cell phone before you start driving.
- Identify and preset your vehicle's climate control, radio and CD player.
- Plan your route and set your GPS before you leave.
- When you're hungry or thirsty, take a break. Don't eat or drink while you drive.
- Avoid other distractions like reading maps, grooming activities and tending to children and pets.

If convicted of distracted driving, a fully licenced driver (holder of Class A, B, C, D, E, F, G) or a hybrid driver (holder of a full-class licence and a novice licence such as Class G and M1) will receive:

- a fine of \$400, plus a victim surcharge and court fee, for a total of \$490 if settled out of court
- fine of up to \$1,000 if you receive a summons or fight your ticket
- three demerit points applied to your driver's record

If convicted of distracted driving, a novice driver (subject to the Graduated Licensing program) will be subject to escalating sanctions:

- first occurrence will result in a 30-day licence suspension
- second occurrence will result in 90-day licence suspension
- licence cancellation and removal from the Graduated Licensing System for a third occurrence

If you endanger others because of any distraction, including both hand-held and hands-free devices, you can also be charged with careless driving. If convicted, you will automatically receive:

- six demerit points
- fines up to \$2,000 and/or
- a jail term of six months
- up to two-year licence suspension

You can even be charged with dangerous driving (a criminal offence), with jail terms of up to five years.

People just do not understand the risk they are taking and believe nothing will happen to them and that's a misguided way to think. I am not surprised to see the number of people both teens and adults texting and driving each and every day and if we can do something as simple as this reminder on all city vehicles for the general public to see, then that in my opinion is a great approach in continuing the awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

There is nothing that is important that you can't put your phone aside until you are not driving your vehicle. We must be responsible not only to ourselves but to our families and everyone that is around us on our roadways.

The City of Cornwall urges drivers to put down their cell phones and stop texting and driving and any other form of distracted driving.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Sauve', is written above a solid horizontal line.

Tommy Sauve
Safety, Training and Operations Supervisor