



To the University Community:

The Western New England University Safety Committee would like to highlight a few considerations before using your cellular telephone while driving. Having a cell phone in the car can prove advantageous in the event of a vehicle emergency (i.e. breakdown/flat tire), however, statistics show a fourfold increase in accident risk when a driver is operating a vehicle while on a cell phone. Whether on work time, or on personal time, these considerations aim to increase the safe use of cellular phones and the responsible operation of vehicles.

**University policy states that employees whose job responsibilities include regular or occasional driving for business are expected to refrain from using their University issued, or personal cellular phones, while driving.**

Considerations while in your personal vehicle:

1. Talking on your cell phone while driving decreases your defensive driving abilities.
2. When you are concentrating on dialing, texting, emailing, finding, or even handling your cell phone while driving, you are more likely to drive through a stop sign, or red light, or worse, collide with an object in front of you.
3. Using your cell phone while driving puts more than just you at risk. Your passengers and the other roadway users (including bicyclists and pedestrians) are relying on you to operate your vehicle responsibly.
4. You should not touch or talk on your cell phone while refueling your vehicle. You may generate static electricity which could spark a fire. Also, your attention should be on the pump and nozzle to prevent spillage.
  1. Find a safe place to pull off the drive portion of the roadway to search for, reach for, handle, or dial your cell phone. Never perform these actions while actively driving.
  2. Consider hands free devices if you must talk on the phone while driving. This is a law in many States.
  3. End phone calls if/when driving situations become more demanding. Traffic congestion, busy intersections, inner cities/town centers, and school zones are just a few examples of areas that demand your complete driving attention.
  4. Keep necessary phone conversations short. While on the phone drive more conservatively, leaving more distance between you and the car in front of you.

Thank you for your cooperation.