



Alberta Distracted Driving Legislation

September 1, 2011

Distracted Driving Legislation: What is it?

- New Distracted Driving Legislation comes into force September 1, 2011
- New technologies are growing so fast that legislation is now finally catching up. We have an epidemic of people driving around inattentive.
- Sometimes people forget that when you're in your vehicle, your primary focus should be on driving. We seem to treat our vehicles like a second living room, or a couch on wheels, or even a mobile office. That has to change. It's all about traffic safety. Make no mistake: You cannot drive safely when you're distracted.
- The goal with this law was to have it be practical, effective and enforceable.

What activities are *not allowed* while driving?

- talking on a hand-held cell phone
- texting/e-mailing
- using electronic devices like laptop computers, video games, cameras, video entertainment displays and programming portable audio players (e.g., mp3 players)
- manually entering information on GPS units
- reading printed material like a book or a magazine
- writing, printing or sketching
- personal grooming like combing your hair, applying makeup or brushing your teeth
- using a 2-way radio or what is commonly referred to as a CB (Citizen's Band) radio

What activities are allowed?

- using a cell phone in hands-free mode - this means the device is not held in the driver's hand and is activated by voice or a single touch to the device
- using an earphone — if it is used in a hands-free or voice-activated manner
- drinking beverages, such as coffee, water or pop
- eating a snack
- smoking
- talking with passengers
- listening to a portable audio player – as long as it is set up before you begin driving

Activities allowed continued...

- a GPS navigation system – as long as the system is affixed to the vehicle and programmed before you begin driving or the system is voice activated. You cannot hold the unit or manually enter information while driving
- a collision avoidance system
- a gauge, instrument, device or system that provides information about the vehicle's systems or the vehicle's location
- a dispatch system for transporting passengers
- a logistical transportation tracking system that tracks vehicle location, driver status or the delivery of goods for commercial purposes
- calling emergency services, such as 911 with a hand-held cell phone
- using 2-way radios or hand-held radios, such as those commonly referred to as CB (Citizen's Band) radios, when escorting oversized vehicles, to contact one's employer, or when participating in search, rescue and emergency management situations.

Exemptions

- Drivers who talk on hands-free radios, phones or hands-free radio communication devices won't violate the law. In addition, radio communications, such as those commonly referred to as CB (Citizen's Band) radios, will be allowed for certain commercial purposes, to maintain contact with one's employer and search and rescue services only. All drivers will be able to use hand-held devices to contact 911 emergency services and this law will not interfere with the official duties of emergency service personnel including enforcement, fire and medical services. **What is the fine for distracted driving?**

\$172.00

Questions?

- <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/DistractedDriving.htm>
- Link Above for more information

