



CELL PHONES AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT DON'T MIX



Cell phone use while operating mobile equipment is a form of distracted driving and is extremely dangerous. The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that cell phones are involved in 6,000 auto fatalities each year¹. Operating mobile equipment has inherent risks that can be mitigated by training, supervision, maintaining equipment in proper operating condition, and following established procedures; however, using a cell phone introduces the hazard of distracting the equipment operator and increases the chances of being involved in an accident dramatically. Consider the following facts about cell phone usage in the automotive industry that can be translated into the operation of off-road equipment:

- The risks of operating mobile equipment while intoxicated are widely known, but using a cell phone can be up to six times worse¹.
- In a reaction test, a driver who was using a cell phone took over twice as long to react to a red light than when the driver was legally impaired by alcohol².
- Writing or reading a text message takes your eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds. At 55 MPH, that's like driving the length of a football field blindfolded³.
- Currently, 46 states have laws banning texting while operating a vehicle⁴.

Using your cell phone while operating mobile equipment takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your mind off operating the equipment. No call, text or email is worth the risk.

References:

¹www.donttextdrive.com (4/26/2016)

²www.caranddriver.com (4/26/2016)

³www.distraction.gov (4/26/2016)

⁴www.ghsa.org (4/28/2016)

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