

## Important Statistics Regarding Cell Phone Use When Driving

■ People who use cell phones while driving are four times more likely to get into an accident. The risk is higher for teens that have little driving skills.

■ In a 2003 study by Ford, adults missed 14% of pretend distractions when they dialed a hand-held cell phone. Teens missed 54% of these same distractions.

■ Driving is impaired when you talk on a hand-held phone or a hands-free phone. Hands-free phones offer **no** safety advantage.

■ Using a cell phone is more risky than listening to the radio, talking with passengers or eating a sandwich.

■ Driving was more risky when talking on a hand-held or hands-free phone than driving legally intoxicated. (2003 University of Utah study.)

■ Talking on a hands-free phone made people “blind” to 50% of roadside billboards that they were asked to pay



attention to while driving. Researchers call this “inattention blindness.” (2003 University of Utah study.)

■ In a November 2002 study in California, cell phone use caused 11% of traffic accidents from January 1 through June 30. Radio and CD use caused 9%—children 4%—eating 3% and reading 2%.

Both teens and adults must concentrate while driving. Teens do not have years of experience in dealing with all the risky situations they will face. They do not have the skill to act and react automatically. Teens must stop and think about what to do. They must pay attention to what they are doing and to what other drivers are doing.

Talk to your teens about the dangers of driving while using a cell phone. Make rules about cell phone use in the car.

Be a proactive parent. Talk to your teen before an accident happens.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.  
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. , 7 days a week.