



University of the Virgin Islands

UVICELL

SAFETY IN PARADISE
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

OSHA Consultation Program

Safeguarding Drivers at Work

More workers are killed every year in motor vehicle crashes than any other cause and businesses can help solve this deadly problem. Most employers want to do the right thing and protect their workers and some have already taken action to prohibit texting while driving. It is an employer's responsibility to create and maintain a safe and healthful workplace and that should include a clear and enforced policy against the hazard of texting while driving, even if the employee is required to drive only occasionally and/or uses their personal vehicle to conduct work business. Below are some examples of safe practices that should be implemented by drivers at work.



Did you know that driver reaction time delay is the same for individuals talking on the cell phone as it is for a legally drunk driver? In addition, the practice of sending/receiving text messages at 55 mph is equivalent to driving the length of a football field blindfolded! All employee drivers need to stay fully attentive on the road, avoiding driving distractions whether it is via the phone, eating, driving, or even adjusting the radio dial. Employers should set up clear times, procedures and places for drivers' to use texting and other required means of communication.

Aggressive driving and behaviors includes speeding, tailgating, and running traffic lights. Such tactics can create unsafe situations for your employees; lead to incidents of road rage and even mars the professional image of your business. Educate your employees on actively avoiding aggressive driving tactics, on remaining patient and courteous, on not taking behaviors on the road as a personal offense and on planning the route ahead of time to avoid upsets.

For more information on improving safety and health in your workplace, please contact the UVICELL Safety In Paradise office on St. Thomas at 693-1146, on St. Croix at 713-1619 or via email at safetyinparadise@uvi.edu.