



Nationwide®
is on your side

Have your drivers pledge their commitment to safety.

Driver distraction is a major factor in many motor vehicle accidents, and cell phones are often the culprit. The National Safety Council estimates that cell phone use was involved in 26% of all U.S. auto collisions in 2014.¹ Plus, damage often increases when there are other triggering factors such as speed, poor weather conditions and driver impairment.

Your responsibility as an employer.

As an employer, it's imperative to define your safety expectations to anyone operating a vehicle on behalf of your business in a clearly worded policy on the use of mobile devices. It's also prudent to provide those employees with training opportunities that educate them on the scope, seriousness and potential consequences of distracted driving. This includes looking into laws and regulations affecting your employees based on vehicle type, operator license and jurisdiction. Several websites can help with your research efforts:

- **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** — fmcsa.dot.gov/driver-safety/distracted-driving
- **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety** — iihs.org/iihs/topics/laws/cellphonelaws/maphandheldcellbans
- **Governors Highway Safety Association** — ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html

Recommendations for better fleet safety management.

- **Driver pledge forms** — Nationwide® recommends that you require your business vehicle operators to sign a pledge to avoid distracted driving and stay focused on the road, thus signifying their buy-in to your company's highway safety policy. **Turn the page to see a sample mobile device policy** you can use as a starting point for your business's pledge form.
- **Lockdown technology** — You may also find it useful to invest in technology to lock down employer-issued smartphones, tablets and other devices that could compromise a driver's vigilance. These systems can even help prevent the driver from receiving calls or texts.

Ask your Nationwide Loss Control Services representative for more information about these and many other ways you can help prevent collisions involving your fleet's drivers and vehicles.

¹ *National Safety Council Injury Facts, 2015 Edition, p. 108.*



It's imperative to define your mobile device safety expectations in a clearly worded policy.

Providing solutions to help our members manage risk.®

For your risk management and safety needs, contact Nationwide Loss Control Services: 1-866-808-2101 or LCS@nationwide.com.

Mobile Device Policy

Your safety is of great concern when driving on company time. Numerous studies have demonstrated how the use of hand-held and hands-free mobile devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets) while driving pose a significant safety risk to motorists, their passengers and others on the road. This includes, but is not limited to, answering or making phone calls, engaging in phone conversations, and reading or responding to emails and text messages.

Using a mobile device results in all three major types of driver distraction:

1. **Visual** — Taking your eyes off of the road ahead
2. **Manual** — Taking your hands off of the wheel
3. **Cognitive** — Taking your mind off of the task of driving

To help create a safe driving environment, it's important to stay focused on your driving duties at all times. Your signature on this form serves as your agreement to follow the guidelines set forth below. If you don't understand or are unclear on the expectations, make time to discuss your concerns with your supervisor immediately.

The guidelines below should be followed while operating any vehicle on company time:

- Gather any route plans or updates on road and weather conditions before your trip to avoid making calls for directions while driving
- Turn your cell phone off or put on it silent or vibrate before starting the vehicle
- Allow all incoming calls to go to voicemail
- Modify your voicemail greeting to indicate that you're unavailable to answer or return calls while driving
- Pull over to a safe place, if it is urgently necessary to use your phone, before making calls or responding to text messages

Below is a Statement of Acknowledgement that says you have read and fully understand this policy. Please sign it and return it to your supervisor. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your supervisor before signing it. Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

I have received a written copy of the Mobile Device Policy. I have been encouraged to ask questions of my supervisor for clarification, and by signing below, I acknowledge that I understand the terms of this policy and agree to abide by them.

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

OTHER SOURCES FOR SAMPLE DRIVER PLEDGE FORMS.

There are many similar forms available from organizations such as the National Safety Council (NSC) and government agencies such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). For example:

- **NSC** — safety.nsc.org/cellphonekit
- **NHTSA** — distraction.gov/take-action/downloads.html