

School Bus Driver Letter

A MONTHLY MESSAGE FOR DRIVERS
FROM THE [LOSS CONTROL ORGANIZATION OF THE HARTFORD](#)

March 2009



NTSB Continues Call for Ban on Cell Phone Use

Dear School Bus, Motor Coach and Limousine Driver:

Item number one on the National Transportation Safety Board's "Most Wanted List" of safety improvements for 2009 is to prohibit cellular telephone use by commercial drivers of school buses and motor coaches, except in emergencies.

The recommendation by NTSB to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is a result of their investigation of a motor coach accident in Virginia several years ago. The safety board concluded in their report that the cause of the accident was the motor coach driver's cognitive distraction due to his use of a hand-free cell phone. The Safety Board concluded that the use of either hand-held or hands-free cellular telephones while driving can impair the performance of even a commercial driver's license (CDL) holder.

The previous NTSB report and their 2009 "Most Wanted List" specifically address CDL holders with a passenger-carrying or school bus endorsement.

Drivers transporting passengers in motor vehicles that either do or do not require a CDL should NOT use a cell phone or text message while driving.

Cell phone conversations and text messaging are more distracting than simple conversations and result in slower reaction times, slower driving speeds and increased instances of attention lapses.

School bus, motor coach and limousine drivers have a special obligation to provide the safest driving environment possible for the passengers in their care.

Cell phone use is a serious driver distraction. As a professional driver you should NOT use a hand-held or hands-free cellular phone when operating a motor vehicle while transporting passengers.



Resources

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