



Our cars are more connected than ever. Automakers seem to be in an arms race to put the latest technology into our vehicles so we can text, email, update social media and even make dinner reservations from our dashboards. But just because these systems are available does not make them safe to use.

Myth: My car came with an infotainment system. Since it's built into my car, it must be safe.

Fact: Marketing for these technologies has been powerful. An NSC survey found more than 50 percent of drivers believe this myth – that infotainment systems must be safe to use because they are built into cars. But technologies that allow drivers to make hands-free calls, dictate texts or emails and update social media have not been thoroughly safety tested. Existing research shows these systems can be distracting to drivers. In fact, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found drivers doing some voice tasks via infotainment systems may remain distracted for as long as 27 seconds after they finish the task.

Myth: I know distracted driving is dangerous, but my job depends on me being connected – even when I'm behind the wheel. I can't afford to miss calls, emails or text messages.

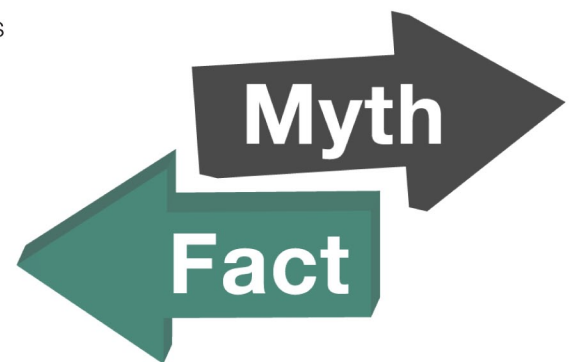
Fact: Car crashes are the #1 cause of workplace death. Safety-centric employers know that employees are their greatest asset, and it is wise to go above and beyond to keep employees safe. One way employers are doing this is by implementing cell phone policies banning handheld and hands-free for all employees and creating a culture that encourages employees to embrace safety. Essentially, employers are making it easier for employees to put their drive first.

Dozens of Fortune 500 companies have adopted cell phone policies. Not only is this an added level of safety for employees, but it protects employers from being held legally responsible if an employee is involved in a distracted driving crash. NSC has developed a free **Cell Phone Policy Kit** to help employers get started.

Myth: Most car crashes are caused by car malfunctions such as faulty brakes, blown tires or engine problems.

Fact: Vehicle problems are not the primary cause of car crashes. They represent a very small portion of crashes, and most vehicle problems have to do with improperly inflated or maintained tires. More than 90 percent of all crashes are caused by driver error and can be prevented.

We know distraction can lead to driver error. We also know distracted driving is common – 9 percent of drivers are talking on phones while driving at any given daylight moment. Distracted drivers miss seeing up to 50 percent of what is around them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, traffic signs and other vehicles.



nsc.org/ddmonth
#takebackyourdrive

