

SMART DRIVER[®]

June 2024



REINFORCING THE HAZARDS OF TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

Technology inside the cab of the truck can be great for helping to simplify a driver's job and make them safer on the road. However, technology can also be a major distraction while driving. In fact, according to data from Transport Canada's National Collision Database, distracted driving contributed to an estimated 22.5% of fatal collisions and 25.5% of serious injury collisions in 2021 and according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving claimed 3,522 lives in 2021.

One of the most common distractions, for drivers is texting, but that term can be misleading. Drivers may not be aware that "texting" has a broad meaning and if they are not versed on its scope, they may be opening themselves up for trouble. For this reason, it may be a good time to discuss texting with drivers and remind them of the consequences of their actions if they are caught texting while driving. Here are some talking points to share with drivers.

WHAT EXACTLY IS TEXTING?

Texting involves manually entering text into, or reading text from, an electronic device. This includes instant messaging, emailing, logging into a website, and pressing more than one button to start or end a call on a cell phone. Interacting with an electronic logging device (ELD) or other fleet management software can also fall into this definition because texting on a dispatching device may be indistinguishable from texting on another text-capable device.



WHAT DO THE REGULATIONS PROHIBIT?

According to FMCSA's 49 CFR Part 392.82, no driver may use a hand-held mobile telephone or engage in texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). However, using a hand-held mobile telephone is permissible for drivers of a CMV when necessary to communicate with law enforcement officials or other emergency services.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR DRIVERS?

Besides the obvious risk of being involved in a vehicle accident that could cause injuries, fatalities, and property damage—not to mention potential civil and criminal charges—drivers expose themselves to additional risk by engaging in this dangerous and prohibited activity.

In the United States, drivers face penalties up to \$2,750 and may be disqualified from operating a CMV for up to 120 days. In Canada the fines can be as high as \$3,000 and may include 30-day licence suspension. If a motor carrier has a written policy forbidding texting while driving, the driver could also face disciplinary action.

CALL TO ACTION

- Remind drivers not to interact with mobile devices and fleet management technologies while driving.
- Create a call-in schedule for drivers so dispatchers and family do not disturb the driver while driving.
- Monitor the company's Safety Measurement System (SMS) results, and Provincial Safety profile such as Commercial Vehicle Operator Record (CVOR) or equivalent, for violations involving distracted driving.

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Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____

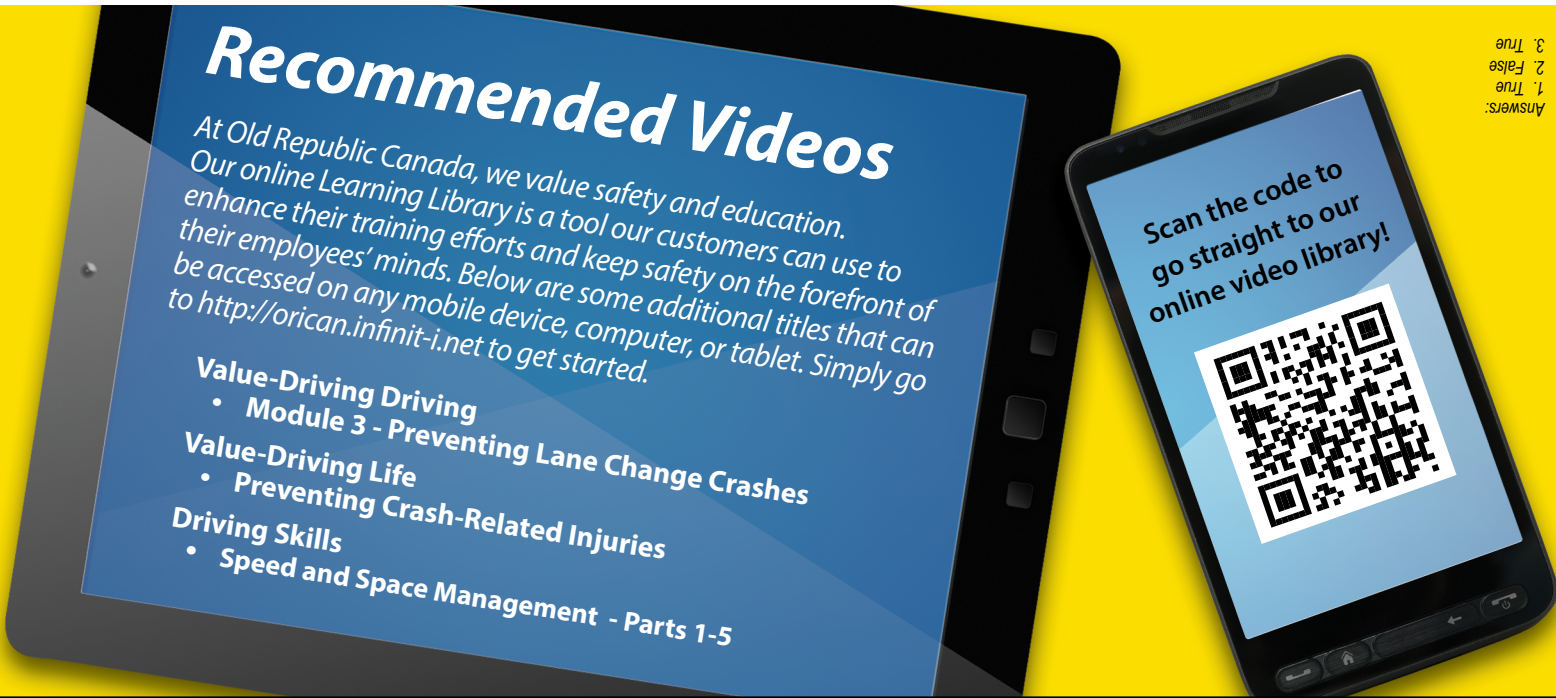
Driver's Signature: _____

Witness Name: _____

Date: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. One of the most common distractions for drivers is texting. | True | False |
| 2. Interacting with an electronic logging device (ELD) or other fleet management software does NOT hold the same penalties as texting and driving. | True | False |
| 3. In Canada the penalties for texting can be as high as \$3,000 and may include 30-day licence suspension. | True | False |



Answers:
1. True
2. False
3. True



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