



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2018-02 (14 February 2018)

Distracted Driving: A Dangerous Practice



At least once a year, it's incumbent upon the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) to remind all workers and managers that operating powered equipment while being distracted by the use of personal electronic devices (such as cell phones, music playing electronics, Bluetooth connected media, etc.) is dangerous, contrary to established policies agreed upon by ILA and management ***and*** a violation of OSHA requirements.

The JSC understands the temptations and conveniences presented by the casual use of personal electronic devices, but we also stubbornly understand that preserving the life and limb of all persons working within our industry is a motivator that is far more important.

And we have good reason for feeling that way. In fact, several of them; ***each in the form of a fatal accident that claimed the life of a longshore worker in this country (and in others) who paid the ultimate price owing to the distractions presented by personal electronic device use*** (by themselves or by co-workers). Moreover, the claiming of those lives is never the end of the story: The loved ones those workers leave behind are typically left with a legacy of sorrow, remorse, regret and privation. It's not a happy ending.

For the benefit of yourselves, your fellow workers, your families and the industry that sustains us... we urge you to use personal electronic devices only at approved locations and times; not while in active operation of any powered equipment.

OSHA has published an extremely informative webpage, which contains some very interesting and instructive information and statistics that relate to this extremely important subject. Here's a link: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/3416distracted-driving-flyer.pdf>

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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