

CELL PHONES – A DANGEROUS DISTRACTION

Whether you are in the presence of a user or you use a cell phone personally, using the phone is a significant distraction. Being distracted while driving, operating tools and/or equipment when walking across the street in public or at work; the chances of an injury or crash have increased.

On an active jobsite, the background noise of back up alarms on equipment and noisy engines of trucks and heavy equipment moving across a jobsite can make it difficult to hear someone on the other end of a cell phone. The high level of concentration it takes to hear a conversation on a cell phone takes the focus off the work going on in the surrounding area and can lead to accidents.

Limit the use of cell phones by people working in an active area of the jobsite.

If you are in an active jobsite area and your phone rings, don't answer it and return the call when it's safe to do so, if you must answer the phone tell the caller to wait while you carefully walk to a safe area.

When possible, consider turning your cell phone off while you are working in active jobsite areas.

If you see someone talking on a cell phone and standing in an active jobsite area, recognize that they are probably not fully aware of activities going on around them and make a point to watch out for them.

Cell phones can be a great convenience and a great tool . . . however there use at inappropriate times and inappropriate places can certainly be risky.

A cell phone is a useful tool and a potentially dangerous distraction. The next time your cell phone rings with a call or a text, think about where you are and whether it's safe to respond. The life you save may be your own or a co-worker's.

