



EYES ON THE ROAD

BAN ON HAND HELD CELL PHONES FOR DRIVERS

HANDS ON THE WHEEL

It's the Law:

Drivers who Text, Type, Dial, Chat, Email or Search using a hand-held communication device while driving on Prince Edward Island could face fines ranging from \$250 to \$400 and 3 demerit points upon conviction.

Under the new Cell Phone law, no one shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a hand-held wireless communication device that is capable of receiving or transmitting telephone communications, electronic data, email or text messages.

These devices include cellular phones, BlackBerrys, I-phones, 10-4 phones, GPS systems and Laptops.

Drivers can use hands-free technology activated by a single touch to a button or, when it is safe to do so, pull over and stop their vehicle before they talk or email. Drivers have two choices: **go hands-free or safely pull over.**

New drivers are reminded of the Graduated Driver Licensing Program, where no person who is a Stage 1 driver or a newly licensed driver, shall use a hand-held cellular telephone, headphones, MP3 player, portable video games or any other hand-held electronic device while operating or having care and control of a Motor Vehicle.

Calls to 911 are exempt as are calls from the driver of an ambulance, fire department vehicle or police vehicle.

- Q. How does this new law benefit Islanders?
- A. The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal along with the Government of Prince Edward Island want to make PEI roads and highways safer for all users. Research has shown that driving while using hand-held communication devices puts everyone at a higher risk of motor vehicle collisions which directly relates to increased injury and death.
- Q. What is allowed or not allowed under this new law?
- A. **Allowed:**
Hand-held devices can be used if the vehicle is lawfully parked on the shoulder of the road and out of traffic. The other option is to go hands-free.
- Not Allowed:**
You cannot use hand-held wireless communication devices while driving a vehicle including those capable of receiving or transmitting telephone communications, electronic data, email or text messages. This also includes GPS Units.
- Q. What does **hands-free** mean?
- A. Hands-free means you can add a tool to your cellular, BlackBerry or other communication device to allow you to use it with one touch. You can also use the Speaker option on your device. You will have to dial the number using verbal or one touch commands. The intention is to ensure that you can safely use the communication device without distraction from driving.
- Q. What are these **hands-free tools** and are they expensive?
- A. You have several options. You can use an ear piece, a headset, a Blue Tooth or a through vehicle sound system. Prices start at \$30.
- Q. What about **2-way radios**?
- A. The law does not apply to any communication device that is linked to a non-public short wave radio communication system ie. CB radio.
- Q. What about my Global Positioning System (**GPS**)?
- A. You can use your GPS system **only if** the driver is not typing or inputting information while driving.

- Q. Does this law apply to all drivers?
A. Yes, everyone except emergency personnel in the course of their duties. If you operate an emergency vehicle, Ambulance, Fire or Police Vehicle, this law does not apply to you in the execution of your job.
- Q. Can I use a hand-held phone when I am stationary in traffic?
A. No, driving includes being stopped at traffic lights or during other hold-ups.