

# Lawsuits Avoided, No Productivity Loss When Companies Implement Cellphone Ban

By: Amiel L. Wade of Wade Law Group

<http://sanjoselitigationandlawsuits.com/>

The National Transportation Safety Board has taken a tough stand against distracted driving, recommending lawmakers prohibit motorists from using cellphones or electronic devices of any kind while behind the wheel.

In 2009, an estimated 448,000 people suffered injuries and 5,474 died in distracted-driving related crashes, according to U.S. Department of Transportation reports.

For some in corporate America, those numbers are changing attitudes.

The prevailing wisdom that a salesman needs to be in touch with customers every minute of the day, even when he's driving at 65 mph; or that a supervisor should get an instant response to her text although her employee is switching lanes on a busy road, simply doesn't hold true, the National Safety Council's David Teater says.

"Your productivity will increase if you're more focused on driving than on passing time while talking on your cellphone," said Teater, head of transportation strategic initiatives at the Itasca-based NSC.

In 2009, the NSC surveyed corporate cellphone policies. With 2,004 companies responding, results showed: 23.4 percent prohibited hands-free and hand-held phones and wireless devices while driving; 34.6 percent permitted hands-free devices; and 42 percent had no distracted driving rules.

Of those businesses with total bans:

- More than 20 percent saw a drop in employee crash rates and property damage with the distracted-driving prevention policy.
- More than 70 percent observed either an increase in productivity or no difference at all.
- About 65 percent noticed increases or no impact on workers' morale.

And if fewer accidents and uninterrupted productivity don't convince CEOs to implement distracted-driving prevention programs, they should consider the potential for lawsuits.

.....

## About Wade Law Group

For information on California Business Law, contact a professional [California Business Attorney](#). In the San Jose area or within California, call Amiel Wade at [Wade Law Group](#) at [\(888\) 909-9430](#)