

SAFETY ACTION TEAM
Lake County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 2014
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Place: Ag Center Training Room A

Name	Organization	
Carroll, David	Public Works, Maintenance Area I	Present
Bradford, Amy	Community Services	Present
Breeden, Roland	Facilities & Fleet Management, Facilities Management	Present
Bridgewater, Jim	Public Works, Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management	Present
Chapman, Chuck	Lake EMS	Present
Chavez, Tina	Growth Management	Present
Connell, Greg	Public Works, Maintenance Area II	Excused
Daubert, Tim	Public Works, Environmental Services	Present
Dupera, Patricia	Human Resources	Present
Gaston, Steve	Public Safety, Fire Rescue	Excused
Gladwell, Steven	Community Safety & Compliance, Code Enforcement	Present
Grayson, Leslie	Public Resources, Library Services	Present
Green, James	Facilities & Fleet Management, Fleet Management	Absent
Heffler, John	Public Resources, Extension Office	Present
Magnus, Rick	Public Works, Signs, Signals And Striping	Present
Moumouris, Kellie	Property Appraiser	Present
Ohlinger, Nadine	Human Resources	Excused
Quigley, Gallus	Public Resources, Parks And Trails	Present
Rachel, Stephanie	Clerk Of Courts	Absent
Shaner, Audrey	Community Safety & Compliance, Animal Services	Absent
Taylor, Johnny	Public Works, Solid Waste Programs Division	Present
Wright, Tommy	Public Works, Maintenance Area III	Present

Present Absent Excused

Agenda

Reviewed August Workers' Compensation Claims (4)

Reviewed August Property & Liability Reports (4)

Topics for Discussion:

- Cell Phones and Driving

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Discussions Summary:

- Cell Phones and Driving: A National Danger:

1. Cell phones, a safety tool and a hazard.

- What are some safety aspects of having a cell phone while driving?
 - Being able to summon for help without leaving your vehicle in the event of a breakdown, a flat tire, or running out of gas.
 - Being able to report and summon police and emergency medical services immediately in the event of an accident or breakdown you witness or are involved in.
 - Reporting serious traffic congestions, poor driving conditions, erratic driving, or even drunk drivers without leaving the vehicle.
 - Getting directions when lost without having to stop in an unfamiliar or threatening area (GPS).
- What are the hazards of cell phone use and driving?
 - Failing to pay attention to the road while texting or talking, such as pedestrians crossing, signs, poles, fences, guardrails and animals.
 - Failing to respond quickly to changing traffic patterns while talking or texting which can cause a rear end collision in stop and go traffic.
 - Wandering into another lane while conversing or texting.
 - Speeding up or slowing down in traffic due to talking or texting on the phone.
 - Failing to control steering sufficiently while juggling a phone and the steering wheel.
 - Getting angry or excited by a phone conversation and allowing the heightened emotion to affect driving or turn into road rage.
 - Being startled by a ringing phone.
 - Swerving when reaching to answer the phone.

2. Talking, texting, driving, why not?

- So far this year in the United States, there have been an estimated 752,201 crashes involving drivers using cell phones. –National Safety Council.
- Every 30 seconds a motor vehicle accident occurs involving the use of a cell phone. -National Safety Council.
- Using the cell phone whether handheld or hands free delays a driver's reaction.
- Driving while texting or driving are two thinking tasks that involve many areas of the brain.
- Instead of the brain processing both simultaneously the brain rapidly switches between the two cognitive activities.
- Drivers texting or talking miss seeing up to 50% of their driving environments (inattention blindness/driving blindly).
 - In January 2004, at 4:00 p.m., in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a 20-year-old woman ran a red light while talking on a cell phone. The driver's vehicle slammed into another vehicle crossing with the green light directly in front of her. The vehicle she hit was not the first car through the intersection, it was the third or fourth. The police investigation determined the driver never touched her brakes and was traveling 48 mph when she hit the other vehicle. The crash cost the life of a 12-year-old boy. Witnesses told investigators that the driver was not looking down, not dialing the phone, or texting. She was observed looking straight out the windshield talking on her cell phone as she sped past four cars and a school bus stopped in the other south bound lane of traffic. Researchers have called this crash a classic case of inattention blindness caused by the cognitive distraction of a cell phone conversation. –National Transportation Safety Board.
- An MRI study showed that listening to someone speak while they were driving reduced by 37 percent the amount of brain activity associated with driving, compared to driving alone. This decrease in available brain resources can cause drivers to commit the same types of driving errors that can occur under the influence of alcohol. -Carnegie Mellon University.

3. The dangers of cell phones and driving.

- In March 26, 2010, a semitrailer traveling southbound on I-65 near Munfordville, Kentucky, crossed the grass median and entered the northbound lanes where it was struck by a 15-passenger van. The crash killed 11 people. NTSB determined the probable cause of the crash was the truck driver's failure to maintain control of his vehicle because he was distracted by the use of his cell phone. – National Transportation Safety Board.
- On Aug. 5, 2010, traffic slowed before a work zone on I-44 in Gray Summit, Missouri as vehicles merged from the left lane to the right lane. A truck-tractor with no trailer slowed behind the traffic when it was rear-ended by a pickup truck. This set off a chain of fatal collisions. A school bus carrying 23 passengers struck the pickup truck and came to rest on top of the pickup and the truck-tractor. Moments later, a second school bus in the convoy that was carrying 31 passengers rear-ended the first school bus. Two people were killed and 38 people were injured. NTSB determined that the probable cause of the first collision was distraction due to a text messaging conversation conducted by the pickup driver that resulted in his failing to notice and react to the truck-tractor in front of him. . –National Transportation Safety Board.
- On Nov. 14, 2004, a private tour bus struck a bridge on the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Alexandria, Virginia. The crash destroyed the motor coach's roof and injured 11 students, one seriously. The bus driver was talking on a hands-free cell phone at the time of the crash. The driver had passed warning signs indicating that the right lane was nearly two feet too low for the height of the bus to pass under the bridge. The driver, who had traveled this same route only about a week earlier, said he did not see the warning signs or the bridge itself before impact. NTSB concluded that the bus driver's cognitive distraction resulting from a hands-free cell phone conversation was the probable cause of the crash. –National Transportation Safety Board.

4. Cell phone and driving statistics.

- Many cell phone related accidents are unaccounted for.
- An estimated 1,600,000 accidents per year. – National Safety Council.
- Approximately 330,000 injuries per year. – Harvard Center for Risk Analysis Study.
- Approximately 11 teen deaths every day. – Insurance. Institute for Highway Safety Fatality Facts.
- Causes nearly 25% of all car accidents. – National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.
- About 6 times more likely to cause an accident than driving intoxicated. – National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.
- The same as driving after 4 beers. – National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.
- Makes you 23 times more likely to crash. – National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.
- Is the same as driving blind for 5 seconds at a time. – Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.
- Slows your brake reaction speed by 18%. – Humanfactors & Ergonomics Society.

5. Safety tips.

- Follow the cell phone use motor vehicle laws of your state.
- Limit cell phone use while driving to absolutely necessary calls.
- Avoid use of the phone while in stop-and-go traffic and other traffic patterns that pose the greatest hazards.
- Maintain a safe speed while talking on the phone.
- Make sure that steering is firmly under control while driving and talking on the phone.
- Avoid calls while driving that provoke strong emotions or involve complicated matters that require focusing full attention on the call.
- Postpone or end a phone conversation when driving conditions warrant.
- Pull over to the side to make or take a call when driving conditions are such that it would be hazardous to drive and talk on the phone at the same time.

6. Quick safety tips and reminders.

- Out of sight, out of mind.

- Silence is golden.
- Find your app.
- Designate a texter.

7. Laws restricting cell phone use ad driving. –Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

- Talking on a hand-held cell phone while driving is banned in 14 states and the District of Columbia.
- The use of all cell phones by novice drivers is restricted in 37 states and the District of Columbia.
- Text messaging is banned for all drivers in 44 states and the District of Columbia.
- Under secondary laws, an officer must have some other reason to stop a vehicle before citing a driver for using a cell phone. Laws without this restriction are called primary.

State	Hand-held Ban	Texting Ban	Enforcement
Florida	No	All drivers	Secondary
Georgia	No	All drivers	Primary
New York	All drivers	All drivers	Primary
North Carolina	No	All drivers	Primary
Washington	Learner’s permit & intermediate license holders	All drivers	Primary

8. Lake County’s Cell Phone Policy

- Lake County Vehicle and Equipment Management Procedure (LC-1)
 - Section V. Procedures
 - C. Safety & Operational Requirements
 - 2) Employees shall minimize activities that divert attention away from safely driving or operating vehicles/equipment. Activities that divert attention include but are not limited to dialing cell phones, typing messages or eating.
 - H. Abuse/Discipline
 - Failure to abide by applicable Federal, State, and Local laws, including manufacturers operating procedures and prescribed County Procedures related to use and operation of County vehicles and equipment or which causes abuse, misuse, or which results in willful negligent, loss or destruction of County vehicles and/or equipment may result in progressive corrective action up to and including termination.

9. Safety resources.

- Insurance Institute For Highway Safety (www.iihs.org)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (www.nhtsa.gov)
- National Safety Council (www.nsc.org)
- Smartphone Apps- AT&T DriveMode & Drive Safe Mode for other carriers.
 - AT&T DriveMode is a free app that helps drivers avoid distractions from incoming calls and text message alerts. When this app is on, incoming alerts are silenced, text messages can’t be sent and incoming calls go directly to voicemail.

• Round Robin Discussions:

- Code Enforcement shared last month’s Safety Action Team minutes and sent out a Safety Bulletin for September and October discussing Halloween safety and distracted driving.
- Community Services is continuing to promote safety with the buses.
- Environmental Services went over last month’s Safety Action Team minutes and stressed the importance of

hand washing and germs. In addition, they tested the sprinkler system.

- Facilities Management shared and discussed last month's Safety Action Team minutes and watched a video on safe driving.
- Growth Management shared last month's Safety Action Team minutes and reviewed workplace violence reporting and procedures.
- Lake EMS published a threat assessment and safety tips on how to respond in lightning storms. Lake EMS is in the process of implementing a training on driving to include different driving scenarios and situations.
- Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management conducted an inspection and cleaned up chemicals under their stairwell.
- Solid Waste shared the importance of back to school safety and school bus safety with their employees.
- Traffic Operations discussed with their employees the safety of keeping hallways and stairways clear of clutter.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 29, 2014, Ag Center, 1951 Woodlea Rd., Tavares from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Dupera, Human Resources.

cc: David Heath, County Manager
All Department Directors
Webmaster

Cell Phones & Driving A National Danger

Cell Phones A Safety Tool & Hazard



What Are Some Safety Aspects Of Having A Cell Phone While Driving?



Cell Phone & Driving Safety Tool

- ▶ Being able to summon for help without leaving your vehicle.
- ▶ Being able to report accidents or breakdowns you witness.
- ▶ Getting directions when lost without having to stop in an unfamiliar or threatening area.

What Are The Hazards Of Cell Phone Use & Driving?



Cell Phones & Driving Hazards

- ▶ Failing to pay attention to the road.
- ▶ Failing to respond quickly to changing traffic patterns.
- ▶ Wandering into another lane.
- ▶ Speeding up or slowing down.

Cell Phones & Driving Hazards

- ▶ Failing to control steering sufficiently while juggling a phone and the wheel.
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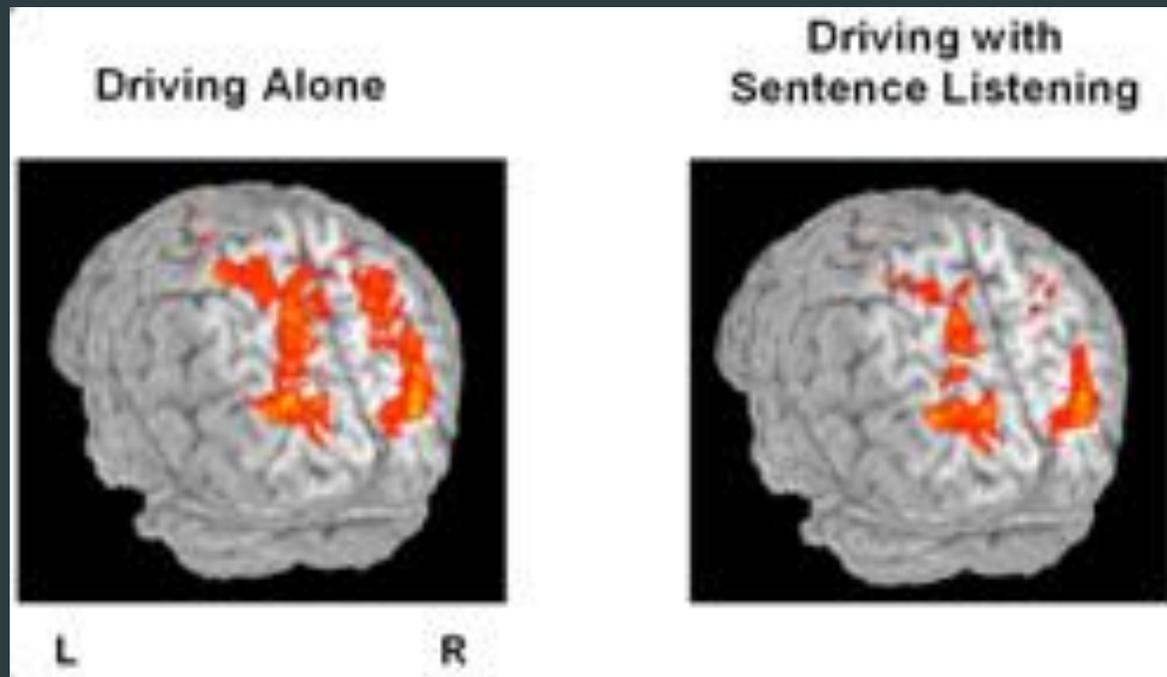
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Talking, Texting, Driving Why Not?

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- ▶ Driving and texting or talking are 2 thinking tasks that involve many areas of the brain.
- ▶ Instead of processing both simultaneously the brain rapidly switches between the 2 cognitive activities.
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Talking, Texting, Driving Why Not?



Talking, Texting, Driving Why Not?



The Dangers Of Cell Phones & Driving



The Dangers Of Cell Phones & Driving



The Dangers Of Cell Phones & Driving



The Dangers Of Cell Phones & Driving

▶ [Video presentation](#)

Cell Phone & Driving Statistics

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Safety Tips

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Safety Tips

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Quick Safety Tips & Reminders

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- ▶ Silence is golden.
- ▶ Find your app.
- ▶ Designate a texter.

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Lake County's Cell Phone Policy

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Section V. Procedures

C. Safety & Operational Requirements

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Lake County's Cell Phone Policy

Section V. Procedures *H. Abuse/Discipline*

Failure to abide by applicable Federal, State, and Local laws, including manufacturers operating procedures and prescribed County Procedures related to use and operation of County vehicles and equipment or which causes abuse, misuse, or which results in willful negligent, loss or destruction of County vehicles and/or equipment may result in progressive corrective action up to and including termination.

Safety Resources

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