

Morgan Support Services Transportation Safety

Distracted Driving

An estimated minimum of 28% of all traffic accidents – or 1.6 million per year – are caused by drivers using cell phones or texting. To protect yourself and those around you:

- Put your cell phone on silent or vibrate before starting the car.
- Modify your voicemail greeting to indicate you are unavailable to answer calls or return messages while driving.
- Inform associates and business partners why calls may not be returned immediately.
- If you need to talk or text, pull over to a safe location and park your vehicle.
- You can get more information on this topic at <https://www.enddd.org/the-facts-about-distracted-driving/>.

Driving Defensively

More than 41,000 people lose their lives in motor vehicle accidents each year, and over 2.4 million more suffer disabling injuries, according to the National Safety Council. The quadruple threat of distractions, high speeds, impaired or careless driving, and not using occupant restraints threatens every driver regardless of how careful or how skilled the driver may be.

Driving defensively means not only taking responsibility for yourself and your actions, but also keeping an eye on “the other guy.” The National Safety Council suggests the following guidelines to help reduce your risks on the road:

Don't start the engine without securing each passenger in the car, including children and pets. Every person must wear a safety belt, no matter how old the person is or where in the car the person is sitting. Safety belts save thousands of lives each year.

- Lock all doors.
- Remember that driving too fast or too slowly can increase the likelihood of collisions.
- Do not use cell phones or any other mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. This includes but is not limited to answering or making phone calls, engaging in phone conversations, reading or responding to emails and text messages, adjusting a GPS, and accessing the internet.

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- Be alert. If you notice that a car is straddling the center line, weaving, making wide turns, stopping abruptly, or responding slowly to traffic signals, the driver may be impaired.
- Avoid an impaired driver by turning right at the nearest corner or exiting at the nearest exit. If it appears that an oncoming car is crossing into your lane, pull over to the roadside, sound the horn, and flash your lights.
- Notify the police immediately after seeing a motorist who is driving suspiciously.
- Follow the rules of the road. Don't contest the "right of way" or try to race another car during a merge. Be respectful of other motorists.
- Don't follow too closely. Always use a "three-second following distance" or a "three-second plus following distance."
- While driving, be cautious, aware, and responsible.

Driving in Unsafe Conditions

If you are driving and you see water standing in the road, do not attempt to drive through it. You will not be able to tell how deep it is and could get caught in a situation where the water is rising and there is a current that could carry your vehicle with it. Instead, turn around and find another route around the flooded road. If you should be caught in a flooded roadway, call 911 immediately and give them your exact location. Stay with your vehicle. Do not get out and attempt to swim to safety.

What should you do in case of an emergency?

Naturally the answer to that question depends on the severity of the accident. If you are unconscious or unable to respond, the following guidelines will not apply. However, in situations in which you are able to physically respond, you should:

- Immediately check the condition of people we support and apply first aid if needed.
- Call 911.
- Do not leave the scene, but do get out of the way of traffic if possible. Contact Morgan Support Services.
- Request that MSS management contact the person/people we support's family member(s) or emergency contact person(s.)
- If a person we support must go to the hospital, accompany him/her and stay until the family member or other responsible party arrives.
- Complete an Incident Report within 24 hours.

If you are confident that you understand this information, proceed to the quiz:
<https://mssconfidential.online/transportationsafetyquiz>