

April 2022

Dear RETRO Members;

April is **Distracted Driving Awareness Month**. According to the [National Safety Council](#), many people die needlessly each year because drivers continue to use their cell phones while driving, both handheld and hands-free. Texting while driving is even more dangerous because it requires drivers to take their eyes off the road! Another distraction is eating while driving.



Roadways are unpredictable and safe driving requires your full attention. For this reason, handheld mobile phone while driving, including texting, is illegal in the State of Washington. Accidents cause time loss of employees, increased insurance rates, and company vehicles being out of commission for a while.

If your company has delivery drivers, you need to educate them on the dangers of mobile phone use while driving. Ensure they understand your company policies prohibiting the use of handheld devices while operating company vehicles to prevent distracted driving. The National Safety Council recommends these policies apply to *all* company employees, not just delivery personnel. **Encourage making calls before leaving the parking lot or at rest stops, but not while on the road!**



Reinforce your company's distracted driving policies at your next monthly safety meeting for your workforce's safety.

The National Safety Council has a series of short videos that answer common questions about cell phone use and driving which we have compiled on [RS SafetyTV](#). Use one of these videos as your safety meeting opener.

Additional information on this subject can be found in the [RS Safety Library](#). **SAFEME** has a Distracted Driving module in [ENG](#) [ESP](#)

Safety Meetings - Why have safety meetings? First, it is a [requirement](#) of L&I, and secondly, it shows that management is serious about safety, not just giving it *lip service*. These meetings get employees involved in the process and increase engagement in safety. Meetings aren't difficult to do, and they don't have to be an hour long. Pick a topic to discuss or demonstrate. How to use a tool safely. You might also get your employees involved by having them present a safety meeting topic they are familiar with!



To assist you, there are some helpful videos on [RS SafetyTV](#) as well as in the [RS Safety Library](#). If you need help with topics, please contact us at safety@waretailservices.com.

Lock Out/Tag Out (LOTO) – This sounds like a game, but it is serious when working with machinery. Servicing and maintenance of machines or equipment can expose service workers to hazards during the unexpected startup or release of stored energy from electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or other sources in machines and equipment. Hazards like these can lead to serious injuries.



An example would be a bench grinder in need of a new wheel. To safely replace it, you should unplug it from the power source and tag the plug. If it is hard wired, turn off the breaker at the panel and lock the breaker in the off position. Can't lock it? Then tag the breaker so that someone will not turn the breaker on. The idea is to make it clear that someone is working or equipment in need of repair.

Machinery repair caution doesn't always involve electricity. It can involve any equipment that might have stored energy, such as car batteries, hydraulics, air hoses, etc. Ensure the machine power is off, or the pressure in hose lines is neutralized, or the hose can snap back at you.

Here are some good LOTO videos on [RS SafetyTV](#) to help you with your safety meeting. **SAFEME** has a LOTO module in [ENG](#) [ESP](#)



Here at RS, we want all employees to take the time and be safe! If you have questions or would like additional assistance, please contact me.

Thinking safety for you,

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