

Safety Bites” are intended to be presented to ALL EMPLOYEES each weekday; however, Rural Carriers can be given the week’s “Safety Bites” at one five minute period during the week.



Distracted Driving – Cell Phone Use

Recent industry research highlights that 85% of the 100+ million cellular phone subscribers nationwide frequently utilize a cell phone while driving. The Postal Service certainly recognizes the risks associated with using cell phones while driving. Talking and/or texting on a cell phone while driving can be very distracting and may contribute to accidents. Moreover, in accordance with the provisions found in Handbook EL-801, *Supervisor’s Safety Handbook*, it is postal policy to not use cell phones while driving a postal vehicle.

Employees whose official responsibilities include regular or occasional driving of Postal Vehicles and Powered Industrial Equipment are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED FROM UTILIZING A CELLULAR PHONE TO TALK AND/OR TEXT WHILE DRIVING A POSTAL VEHICLE AND POWERED INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.** The use of a blue-tooth and other hands-free device is also strictly prohibited. Regardless of the circumstances, including situations where a driver is stopped or slowed by traffic, an employee must pull off the road and park in a safe location before engaging the use of a cellular phone to talk and/or text, or to use a blue-tooth or hands-free device.

In addition to prohibited cell phone use while driving, cell phone/blue tooth/ear buds/ear phone use is also prohibited while walking. This includes walking while delivering mail or walking along the workroom floor. These devices may only be used when you are in a stationary posture – standing still or sitting still – not while driving or walking because it impedes your ability to hear and react to potential hazards and dangers.

Choose safety – It’s the best investment for your life and livelihood.