Distractions While Operating Equipment

Driving while being distracted is a major concern in our industry along with the general public. There are many ways to get distracted while operating equipment. Cell phones seem to be the biggest concern, but we also have many other distractions like talking on a CB, adjusting the radio, eating and drinking, adjusting your seat, looking around, reaching for something on the floor, etc. As you can see there are many ways to be distracted. According to Department of Transportation, if drivers of large trucks, buses, and hazardous materials take their eyes off the road for even a few seconds, the outcome can be deadly. Next, we’ll discuss what DOT has put in place regarding cell phone usage while operating a commercial vehicle.

According to DOT, “drivers of commercial vehicles will face fines of $2,750 for using their cell phones while driving, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced. The final rule, which officially prohibits interstate truck drivers from using cell phones during the operation of their vehicles, comes from both the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) divisions and is the latest attempt by the DOT to end distracted driving. The rule encompasses both truck and bus drivers and, along with individual drivers, will punish companies that allow drivers to use cell phones while driving with a maximum fine of $11,000. States also have the ability to suspend a driver's commercial driver's license after two or more violations.”

We hope you have a policy in place for not only DOT drivers but operating equipment or working in a safety sensitive position.