



Adopted 20 February 2026

Health Physics Society
Specialists in Radiation Safety

Health Physics Society Policy on Use of Mobile Devices While Driving

Purpose

This policy establishes the expectation that Health Physics Society (HPS) members will not engage in HPS business using video while operating a motor vehicle.

Introduction

The National Traffic Highway Safety Administration compiles data on the number of fatal crashes involving distracted drivers, including data on drivers using cellular phones. The most recent data¹ (from 2023) indicates 8% of fatal crashes, an estimated 13% of injury crashes, and an estimated 13% of all police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes were reported as distraction-affected. In 2023, 12% of fatal traffic crashes were reported as having cellular phone use as a distraction.

There does not appear to be national data available related to the risk of injury from the use of video technology while operating a motor vehicle. One can reasonably conclude that the use of video increases the level of distraction compared to using audio-only communications. In particular, the use of video naturally encourages the user to take their eyes off the road and focus, even for a brief moment, on the video content.

Policy Statement

HPS discourages members from conducting HPS business to the extent they are distracted while operating a motor vehicle. Attending a teleconference by voice only may be acceptable if the attendee is simply listening to the discussion with limited interaction. Leading a meeting while operating a motor vehicle is not permitted. This policy documents the expectation that at no time will HPS members use video technology to conduct HPS business, including attending an HPS meeting or event, while operating a motor vehicle.

¹ Traffic Safety Facts Research Note: Distracted Driving in 2023, US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT HS 813 703 Summary of Statistical Findings, April 2025, <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813703>, accessed 19 Jan 2026.

The Health Physics Society is a nonprofit scientific professional organization whose mission is excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety. Formed in 1956, the Society is composed of scientists, physicians, engineers, lawyers, and other professionals. Activities include encouraging research in radiation science, developing standards, and disseminating radiation safety information. The Society may be contacted at 950 Herndon Parkway, Suite 450, Herndon, VA 20170; phone: 703-790-1745; fax: 703-790-2672; email: HPS@HPS.org.