

Toolbox Talk # 14

CELL PHONE USE



Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

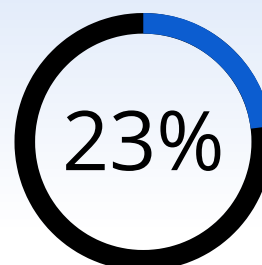
Key Points

Cell phone use on construction sites poses significant safety risks. Distractions from calls, texts, or apps reduce situational awareness, increasing the likelihood of accidents. Workers operating heavy machinery, working at heights, or near electrical hazards face heightened dangers when using phones. OSHA requires employers to mitigate distractions that could lead to injuries, making it essential to enforce strict mobile phone policies in hazardous areas.

Specific hazards include..

- 1. Distraction-Related Accidents** – Phones divert attention, leading to falls, collisions, or tool mishandling.
- 2. Heavy Equipment Hazards** – Operators using phones risk crashes, rollovers, or striking workers.
- 3. Trip and Fall Risks** – Walking while using a phone can cause serious missteps.
- 4. Electrical Dangers** – Phones near live wires increase electrocution risks.
- 5. Dropped Object Risks** – Phones falling from heights can injure workers below.
- 6. Communication Failure** – Phones can interfere with essential radio or verbal communication.

Cell phone use in the workplace can increase the risk of accidents by



Top 5 hazards of Cell Phone use

1. **Slips, Trips, and Falls** – Distraction leads to missteps and serious falls.
2. **Struck-By Accidents** – Phones divert attention from moving vehicles or equipment.
3. **Caught-In/Between Injuries** – Distraction increases entrapment risks in machinery or structures.
4. **Electrical Shocks** – Phones near live wires heighten electrocution risks.
5. **Dropped Object Injuries** – Falling phones from heights endanger workers below.



1. Is this the right time and place to use my phone?
2. Could my phone use put me or others at risk?
3. Am I near heavy equipment, heights, or electrical hazards?
4. Is this call or message more important than job safety?

"Texting while working, danger lurking, Don't be a clown, just put it down"

Summary

Cell phone use on construction sites creates serious safety risks, including distractions, falls, equipment accidents, and communication failures. Workers must stay aware of their surroundings, limit phone use in hazardous areas, and prioritize safety over calls or messages to prevent injuries.



OSHA and Cell Phone Use Overview

OSHA has no specific cell phone ban but enforces safety standards against workplace distractions. Employers must regulate phone use in hazardous areas like heavy machinery zones, elevated workspaces, and electrical sites.

Key OSHA Cell Phone Use Regulation

General Duty Clause (29 U.S.C. § 654, 5(a)(1))

OSHA's General Duty Clause requires employers to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards. Using cell phones in high-risk areas, such as near moving equipment or on scaffolding, increases accident risks. Employers must establish policies limiting phone use to designated safe areas and ensure workers remain focused on tasks to prevent workplace injuries.

Toolbox Talk # 14
CELL PHONE USE



ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: