



Distracted Driving | Hands-free Law Stakeholder Toolkit



On Jan. 1, 2025, a new law will go into effect in Colorado that prohibits drivers from using a mobile electronic device while driving, though hands-free accessories are permitted. The law prohibits holding or manually using a phone or other mobile device while driving, requiring all drivers to use a hands-free device.

- Exemptions to the law include individuals reporting emergencies, utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders, and individuals in parked vehicles.

The materials below reflect some of the outreach methods CDOT will use to raise awareness of the new law and encourage Coloradans to be prepared by acquiring a hands-free accessory. You are invited to share these materials on your own channels to help spread the message.

Social Media Posts

The following are social media posts that you are welcome to share on your own platforms to help spread the word. You can [download graphics to accompany these posts here](#).

Post #1: Hands on the wheel, not your phone. Effective Jan. 1, it is illegal in Colorado to use a mobile device while driving, unless you have a hands-free accessory. Learn more at codot.gov/handsfreeco. #dropthedistraction

Post #2: New Colorado law: no phones while driving. Beginning Jan. 1, drivers are prohibited from using a mobile device, unless you have a hands-free accessory. Learn more at codot.gov/handsfreeco. #dropthedistraction



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Post #3: Heads up, Colorado! Starting Jan. 1, using your phone while driving will be a no-go unless you're hands-free. Keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel. Be prepared – visit codot.gov/handsfreeco for a list of hands-free accessories and to learn more about the new law. #dropthedistractio

Post #4: Hands-free is the way to be! Starting Jan. 1, it's illegal to use your phone while driving for any reason, unless you're using a hands-free accessory. #dropthedistractio

Post #5: Attention Colorado drivers! Beginning Jan. 1, Colorado will enforce a ban on hand-held mobile devices while driving. Be prepared by setting up your hands-free system or accessory now. #dropthedistractio

Newsletter Article #1

New law banning hand-held mobile devices while driving is coming to Colorado

In a significant move to enhance road safety and reduce distracted driving crashes, Colorado will implement a new law beginning Jan. 1, 2025, that prohibits drivers in Colorado from using a mobile electronic device while driving unless they use a hands-free accessory. The new law prohibits holding or manually using a phone or other mobile device for voice calls or any other reason, requiring all drivers to use a hands-free device.

According to CDOT's 2024 Driver Behavior Report, 77% of Colorado drivers admitted to using their phones while driving. Studies show that using a mobile device while driving increases the risk of a crash by two to six times. Distracted drivers pose a particularly high risk to vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists. From 2015 to 2023, deaths among pedestrians and bicyclists increased by 50% and 112.5%, respectively, while Colorado's population grew by less than 8% during the same period.

The law includes exemptions for individuals reporting emergencies, utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders and individuals in parked vehicles. These exceptions ensure that critical communications are not hindered in emergency or essential service situations.

Penalties for violating the new law in Colorado start with a \$75 fine and two license suspension points for the first offense. Repeat offenders face higher fines and more license suspension points. First-time violators can have the charge dismissed if they provide proof of purchasing a hands-free accessory.

As the January 2025 deadline approaches, CDOT urges all drivers to begin practicing hands-free driving now, ensuring they are prepared when the law takes effect. Colorado drivers are encouraged to invest in hands-free accessories such as dashboard mounts and car speakerphone systems to comply with the new law. Learn more at codot.gov/handsfreeco.



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[Link to download graphic here.](#)

Alt text: A person's wrist wearing an Apple Watch with green and white text and pink doodle decals explaining the new Hands-Free Law.

Newsletter Article #2

Colorado's New Hands-Free Law

In Colorado, 42 crashes per day involve a distracted driver. In fact, last year 77% of Colorado drivers admitted to using their phone while driving. It's not hard to believe – it seems everywhere you look while on the road, a driver has their eyes and hands on their phone. But thanks to new legislation passed earlier this year, that's about to change.

In a significant move to enhance road safety and reduce distracted driving crashes, Colorado will implement a new law beginning Jan. 1, 2025, that prohibits drivers in Colorado from using a mobile electronic device while driving unless they use a hands-free accessory.

If you get caught violating this law, you can have the charge dismissed if you show proof that you've purchased a hands-free accessory. Exceptions to the law apply to individuals reporting emergencies, utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders and individuals in parked vehicles.

As the January 2025 deadline approaches, CDOT urges all drivers to begin practicing hands-free driving now, ensuring they are prepared when the law takes effect. Colorado drivers are encouraged to invest in hands-free accessories such as dashboard mounts and car speakerphone systems to comply with the new law. Learn more at codot.gov/handsfreeco.