



MEDIA RELEASE

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Don't Mix Mobile Phones and Driving

As of October 1, 2010, Maryland drivers are prohibited from using hand-held cell phones while behind the wheel. The new law was signed by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley on May 21.

"While the new law does not take effect until October 1, I challenge all drivers to stop using cell phones while driving immediately," said Jack Russell, President, Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County. "We know that the use of cell phones while driving causes many traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities."

Violators will face a \$40 fine for a first offense and \$100 for repeat incidents after the October 1 effective date. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station instituted a rule prohibiting driving and using a hand held cell phone on board the air station and St. Inigoes facility last year. "We know that distracted driving causes accidents," explained Jackie Beckman, CTSP Coordinator St. Mary's Highway Safety Program, Community Services Division Department of Human Services. "Crashes caused by cell phone calls and texting are particularly prevalent among teen drivers."

For more information on the effects of distracted driving, log on to the official US Government website for distracted driving at www.distraction.gov.

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