



**SAFETY**

Nebraska Building Chapter

## **AGC Safety Initiative E-News**

**March 31, 2021**

**OUR Safety MISSION:** Help each other enforce safety rules to ensure that every person on construction site goes home safe and healthy at end of the workday.

**Calendar of Events** – [Learn more](#)

[COVID-19 Resources Update](#) Updated information with quick references available.

### **Avoid Cellphone Distractions While Driving**

Transportation-related incidents accounted for 49,430 on-the-job injuries in 2019, according to Injury Facts, a National Safety Council statistics database. One reason for these injuries? Workers who are driving distracted. NSC says driver distractions fall into three categories: visual, manual, and cognitive. One action fits into all three: Cellphone use while driving.

Using your cellphone behind the wheel increases your risk of a crash fourfold. NSC offers tips for staying safe:

- Turn off cellphones while driving or put cellphones in your vehicle's trunk to resist temptation. Another suggestion is to record a voicemail greeting that tells callers you're driving and will return their call when you arrive at your destination. Or consider switching your cellphone to "Do Not Disturb" mode.
- Don't make or answer cellphone calls, even with hands-free and voice recognition devices. If you must make an emergency call, leave the road and park in a safe area.
- Don't send or read text messages or emails.
- If you're driving with a passenger, allow them to operate the phone.
- Program directions into your navigation system before you leave. Enable the audible directions feature so GPS can verbally share step-by-step directions.

**April is designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month.**

### **'Tis the Season for Parking Lot Injuries**

Parking lots are riskier than you think. Tens of thousands of crashes occur in parking lots and garage structures annually, resulting in hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries. And, around the holidays, parking lots become even more dangerous.

Auto insurers report the number of claims spike on Black Friday and run above normal throughout the holiday shopping season. The number of incidents is probably higher than insurance claims indicate, as many fender-benders go unreported.

So Many Distractions - In an NSC public opinion poll, 66% of drivers nationwide said they would make phone calls while driving through parking lots. Respondents also said they would:

- Program GPS systems (63%)
- Text (56%)
- Use social media (52%)

- Send or receive emails (50%)
- Take photos or watch videos (49%)

NSC found teens (59%) were more likely to engage in personal grooming than adults (53%) while driving in parking lots, but less likely to be on the phone (60% vs. 66%).

During the hectic holiday season, drivers and pedestrians also are likely to be distracted by extensive to-do lists and are hurriedly trying to get from one place to another.

Stay Alert - Safety isn't guaranteed just by driving slowly in parking lots. Following are some safety tips for drivers, courtesy of the Oswego (IL) Police Department:

- Stay in lanes and avoid cutting across lots
- Drive slowly and use directional signals
- Anticipate the actions of other drivers
- Obey stop signs and no-parking signs
- When backing out, be mindful of vehicles and pedestrians
- Watch for small children and parents with baby strollers

Tapping into Technology - NSC analysis of government data indicates that 9% of pedestrian deaths in parking lots result from backup incidents. Many vehicles today are equipped with backup cameras, which provide a wide view behind a vehicle operating in reverse, but that view may not be clear if the camera lens becomes obstructed.

Three safety reminders:

- It's best to conduct a quick, 360-degree walk-around before backing, keeping an eye out for low-lying objects
- Don't rely completely on technology; look over your shoulder and use your mirrors as you back up
- When parking, pull through on arrival whenever possible and if it works with the flow of traffic

Monitoring systems can alert drivers of vehicles in blind spots. Typically, drivers are warned of another vehicle's presence via symbol, sound, or vibration. These systems may not detect motorcycles, smaller objects, or people, however.

### **Other Parking Lot Pitfalls**

Inadequate pavement striping, potholes or cracks, lack of signage, debris, poor lighting, puddles, and snow and ice also can lead to pedestrian injuries. Slips, trips, and falls are common in parking lots, and falls in general are the leading cause of death for older adults.

Choosing the right parking spot can go a long way toward deterring theft and crime. Consumer Reports provides some [simple safety rules](#):

- Pick spots that are well-lit and close to stores where you will be shopping
- Lock your doors
- Store purchases in places that are out of sight (in the trunk or tucked under dark-colored blankets)

Large parking lots, such as those found at shopping malls, are considered most vulnerable to crime, according to the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center. One way for consumers to steer clear of trouble is to pick a lot where pedestrian traffic is restricted, and video surveillance equipment is used to monitor the facility.

**Safety Initiative Goals:**

As an AGC Nebraska Building Chapter member, are you participating with:

- 100% of all AGC members and other contractors on AGC jobsites enforcing OSHA standards as they apply to falls, electrical safety and possible another topic.
- 100% of all AGC members will have set their own company goals to improve safety in their firm and have a way to measure progress towards the goal.
- 100% of all AGC members will encourage and support all contractors on their jobsites to set their own company goals for improving safety.