



## ***San Francisco District***

# ***localnewsbreak***

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## **Cell Phone Law Takes Effect July 1, 2008**

**That's next week Tuesday ... Are you ready?**

Two new laws dealing with the use of wireless (cellular) telephones while driving go into effect July 1, 2008. The first prohibits **all** drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle; however motorists 18 and over may use a hands-free device. The second new law states that drivers under the age of 18 may **NOT** use a wireless telephone **or** hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle. The under-18 law applies even if the vehicle has a built in hands-free feature.

There is only one exception that applies to all drivers and that is in the event of an emergency to call police, fire or medical authorities.

The new law applies to employees driving a government vehicle. It is never a good idea to talk on the phone while driving, however if you must, after July 1, you must use a hands-free device, such as a wired or Bluetooth headset.

The base fine for the **FIRST** offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent convictions. According to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule, with the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190.

California is joining 15 other states, the District of Columbia and 25 countries in banning the use of a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device. Are you going on vacation and worrying about whether a state or country you're visiting has a similar law?

Visit: [http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html) for information on other areas.

**Please Print and Post on all Employee Bulletin Boards!**

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