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Hailey Adopts Hands-Free Cell Phone Ordinance

Use of Electronic Devices While Driving in Hailey Must be Hands-Free

(Hailey, Idaho) – Hailey’s newest law becomes effective September 14, 2016. The use of mobile electronic devices while driving must be hands-free. Drivers will not be allowed to hold any type of wireless or data communication device while driving. Such devices include cell phones, laptops, and video, music, photo, text-messaging, paging, and PDA devices. The penalty is an infraction with a fixed fine of \$100.00. See the entire ordinance at www.haileycityhall.org.

How to use a device without hands:

1. Pull out of a traffic lane and park the car;
2. Use an internal feature or function without using your hands, such as speaker or voice activation;
3. Use an external attachment without using your hands, such as earphones or Bluetooth. Do not use either hand to manage the call or the attachment while you are in a traffic lane;
4. Affix your electronic device to your vehicle with a magnetic attachment, so that your use of the device is entirely hands-free.

Can hands ever be used?

Limited exceptions exist, allowing phones or other devices to be hand-held only under specific conditions:

1. When the car is parked in a parking space or outside of any travel lane;
2. When the driver fears for his life-safety or believes a criminal act may be perpetuated against himself or another person. At such times, one hand must be on the steering wheel;
3. When the driver reports a fire, traffic accident, road hazard, or reckless or unsafe driving of another. At such times, one hand must be on the steering wheel;
4. Emergency workers such as fire, police, and ambulance drivers who are in the performance of their official duties or an essential public service function.

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