



# EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **DON'T GET CAUGHT "RED-HANDED" GO HANDSFREE, "IT'S THE LAW"**

*Wireless Telephone Laws Aim to Increase Traffic Safety*

Two new laws regarding the use of wireless telephones while driving take effect July 1, 2008. Both laws are designed to increase traffic safety by reducing distractions inside vehicles and increasing driver awareness.

23123 CVC prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking and is used in that manner. This law does not prohibit dialing, nor does it address text messaging. However, a driver can be pulled over and cited, if, in the officer's opinion, the driver was distracted and not operating the vehicle safely. Text messaging while driving is unsafe at any speed and is strongly discouraged.

There are several exceptions to the law, including making an emergency call to a police agency, fire department medical provider or other emergency services provider. This law does not prevent law enforcement or other emergency services personnel from using a wireless telephone while operating an authorized emergency vehicle.

23124 CVC prohibits a driver under the age of 18 from operating a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, even if it is equipped with a hands-free device, or while using mobile service device, including laptop computers, handheld devices with mobile data access, pagers, and two-way messaging devices. This

section also exempts the use of a wireless telephone for emergency purposes, including an emergency call to an emergency services agency or entity.

The fine for a first offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent offenses plus additional penalty assessments.

There is no grace period for the enforcement of these laws. The El Segundo Police Department seeks to educate the public of the dangers of operating a vehicle while using a wireless telephone and will be enforcing the new laws when they take effect July1, 2008.

For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, go to the following CHP link [http://www.chp.ca.gov/pdf/media/cell\\_phone\\_faq.pdf](http://www.chp.ca.gov/pdf/media/cell_phone_faq.pdf) or DMV link <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm>.

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