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*Call It Disaster: Cell Phone Use During Simulated Driving*

Talking on a cell phone while driving is said to be dangerous, but is it really? The objective of this experiment was to determine if the use of a cell phone or Bluetooth adapter affects the number of crashes in a simulated driving Play Station-PS2 game. Twelve subjects completed nine trials, which included three control (no distraction) trials; three cell phone and three Bluetooth device trials. All subjects used a PS2 steering wheel with gas/brake pedals. The subjects first practiced for about 21 minutes on a simple oval racetrack. Then the subjects completed the trials on the PS2: Auto Boning A4 Express racetrack. While using the cell phone and Bluetooth the subjects were asked easy, medium, and hard questions. The results showed that when using a cell phone subjects had 31% more accidents than the control group. Using the Bluetooth device, subjects had 22% more accidents than the control group. Also, when subjects were asked more difficult questions while using the cell phone and Bluetooth they had an average of 8% more accidents than when asked only easy questions. These results support legislative efforts to ban cell phone use while operating a vehicle.