

## ROAD ACCIDENTS

# Leave your phone when driving

**D**istracted driving is a major killer on the roads.

During May, the Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) is calling on all road users not to touch their cellphones when driving or walking. This is to protect their own safety and the safety of others.

In addition to the talking and text messaging devices, it is also our newspapers, cameras, wallets and maps.

Growing evidence from around the world shows that, if you are driving or walking, being distracted by your cell-phone significantly increases the risk of a road accident. Road accidents may result in serious injuries and death.

The United States National Road Safety Council says the ability of a person's brain to process moving images decreases by 33% when he or she is on the phone.

Being distracted in this way significantly reduces the ability of drivers to respond effectively to what is happening on the road, even if they are using a hands-free kits. People using cellphones while walking near traffic are also distracted, especially if they are wearing earphones or headphones.

"We are appealing to all road users to never use a cellphone while driving or walking. Any kind of distraction is extremely dangerous," said Farrel Payne, DTPW director of traffic law enforcement. "Please pay attention to the road at all times, especially as winter approaches and visibility decreases. No phone call or text message is so important that it is worth a human life," he added.

Payne said: "We can help to prevent the unnecessary loss of lives on our roads if we all work together. No text message or phone call is worth a human life. Whatever it is, #ItCanWait."