**FAQs**

*These questions and suggested answers are meant to address potential staff questions as you talk to your employees about distracted driving.*

**Q: Why is my co-op getting involved in how I drive?**

*A:**Concern for employee safety -- it’s part of our ongoing effort to promote a culture of safety in our co-op. This also ties directly into our* ***Cooperative Principle******#7 – Concern for Community****, since distracted driving is not only an issue that impacts our employees, but it also has a direct impact on our wider community.*

**Q: Is there anything in particular that prompted this initiative? Why now?**

*A: This effort was introduced at NRECA’s Safety Leadership Summit in conjunction with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, and they are now making communication tools available to interested co-ops. Safety is a core value for us, and this initiative is part of our ongoing effort to promote a culture of safety within our co-op community.*

**Q: Does my co-op have an official policy on using a-co-op issued cell phone while driving and/or using my personal phone while driving in an official co-op vehicle?**

*A: {Answer will depend on whether or not your cooperative has such a policy. If so, refer them to the policy and provide a PDF or direct link to the policy. If your co-op doesn’t have such a policy, we suggest the following:}*

*While we do not have an official policy on phone usage while driving at this time, it is certainly an issue that we are beginning to look at. The safety of our employees is paramount – this initiative is part of a larger, ongoing effort to create a culture of safety at our co-op.*

***FAQs continued***

**Q: What happens if I’m driving and I get a call/message/text from my boss or a co-op coworker (whether it’s on my personal phone or a co-op issued phone)?**

*A: Safety comes first. Pull over if you think it’s urgent, or wait until you have reached your destination to answer. If there is a passenger in the car and you think it’s urgent, have the passenger let your colleague/boss know you are driving and will get back to him/her at your earliest, safe opportunity.*

**Q: What happens if I DON’T sign the pledge?**

*A: This is a voluntary effort. You are not obligated to sign the pledge.*

**Q: What happens if I DO sign the pledge and slip up?**

A: *This is a voluntary effort. It means you are making a commitment to yourself to not use a phone while driving. No one is perfect. Keep working at it – old habits are hard to break. It may not happen overnight, but it is worth working toward the goal.*

**Q: The Pledge – is this legally binding?**

*A: It’s a pledge not a legal contract. This is similar to a Weight Watchers type pledge to give up an unhealthy food choice. Instead, you are pledging to give up an unhealthy driving choice.*