

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Policy #:	5.211	Effective Date:	8/9/2012
Title:	Use of Handheld Communication Devices	# of pages:	1
Category:	Personnel	Classification:	Green

1. **PURPOSE:** The State of Maine has made it illegal to operate a motor vehicle while using a hand held communicating device the ban also includes our computer terminals if operated by the driver while in motion. This policy will outline who and when mobile communicating devices can be used.
2. **POLICY:** For this policy, hand held communicating devices shall include all cell phone, laptops, tough books, & tablets. The use of handheld communication devices while operating a fire department vehicle is prohibited. The passenger is allowed to operate the MDT (Mobil Data Terminal) while the vehicle is in motion; however at no time shall the driver utilize the MDT while also driving. If there is a circumstance that the driver needs access to the computer, he or she shall pull over to the side of the road and place the vehicle in park prior to accessing the computer. The department also does not allow employees while responding code 3 to be using cell phones. If a call needs to be made during a response with regards to the emergency call, have the other person in the front seat of the fire truck or ambulance make the call.

Cell phones are not to be used at any point by any member during an emergency call for personal business.

3. **REFERENCES:**
 - SPFD Bulletin 2011-08
 - SPFD Bulletin 2009-08

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief