

## Contractually Speaking

### ARTICLE 12 – PROMOTIONS AND JOBS TO BE POSTED

It is the time of year to renew any transfers you may have submitted under Article 12 of Maintenance and Related, Stores, Fleet Service and the Maintenance Control Technicians Agreements, all of which contain the language:

“(d) each January 1 and July 1 a request for transfer not submitted within the preceding thirty (30) calendar days will be voided and it will be necessary for a new request to be submitted,…”

Another item of concern in submitting multiple transfer request is when your second choice is awarded before your first choice and it will lock you out of any transfers for the next six months minimum, whether accepted or refused.

## Schedule of Upcoming Red Cross Blood Drives:

CRC – Tue. July 12th 11:30am-4pm

W&B – Wed. July 13th Noon-4pm

Main Base CAM Bldg:

Thur. July 14th 8am- 2pm

Fri. July 15th 8am-2pm

Mon. July 18th 8pm-2am

Tue. July 19th 8pm-2am

Wed. July 20th Noon-7pm

Thur. July 21st 8am-2pm

Fri. July 22nd 8am-2pm

TU T-shirts and grilled steak-tips provided to all presenting donors.

## Qualified Pre-Retirement Survivor Annuity (QSPA)

Qualified Pre-Retirement Survivor Annuity (QSPA) is basically an insurance that pays if you die before you begin receiving your retirement benefit. The Plan automatically provides a pre-retirement benefit for your spouse as long as you are vested, have been married at least one year at the time of your death, and you have not waived the QSPA coverage. The QSPA provides your surviving spouse a lifetime monthly benefit equal to the surviving spouse's portion of a 50% Joint & Survivor Annuity, based on your accrued benefit at the time of your death. In lieu of the QSPA benefit automatically provided by the Plan, you may elect an enhanced benefit that provides your spouse with up to 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity based on your accrued benefit by filling out the form Enhanced Pre-Retirement Survivor Annuity 01001TWUQPSA at no additional cost. This form is on Jetnet under “Benefits Service Center” and “My Pension”

<https://p40web.mercerhrs.com/amr/PM/PensionManagement/Forms.asp> but is a nightmare to locate online.

You can also pick one up at the Union Hall or call and have one mailed to you.

If you have filled out the form and submitted it in the last 24 months, it will show up in the “My Pension” area of Jetnet under “Benefits Service Center” and “My Pension”. If you filed one more than two years ago, it is still valid but doesn't show up on Jetnet and, yes, you can fill out another one to have your QSPA election percentage show up on Jetnet under “Benefits Service Center” and “My Pension”. You can have the Local mail these for you or make a copy and keep in your personal record before mailing to AA HR Services.

AA HR Services:

PO Box 9741

Providence, RI 02940-9741



# On the Road, Off the Phone

Nearly one out of every four motor vehicles crashes involve cell phone use. 62% of drivers recognize that talking on a cell phone is a very serious threat to their personal safety. Yet more than two out of three drivers admit to talking on their cell phone in the past month.

## Why the disconnect?

It's important to understand the three main kinds of distraction:

1. **Visual:** Eyes on road
2. **Mechanical:** Hands on wheel
3. **Cognitive:** Mind on driving

Safe driving is about more than hands on the wheel and eyes on the road – it's about focusing solely on the task of driving. When drivers engage in two activities that require a great amount of mental focus, **the brain quickly switches between those tasks sequentially**. As a result, the brain suffers from inattention blindness.

As it switches its focus and attention back and forth, the brain loses its ability to process all the eyes see and **only portion of the information is captured**. In this situation, **drivers look out the windshield, but do not see up to 50% of the driving environment**. In fact, the brain is so overloaded that not all critical driving cues such as red lights, stop signs and pedestrians are delivered to the brain.

## Did You Know?

Cell phone use behind the wheel is a growing concern. According to CTIA – The Wireless Association, in 1995, cell phone subscriptions covered only 11% of the U.S. population. By 2010, that number grew to 93%. As the number of cell phone users continues to increase, so does the number of drivers distracted by cell phones.

Most people understand the visual and mechanical distractions caused by texting behind the wheel. These are obvious distractions, as they take both the driver's hands off the wheel and eyes off the road. But **did you know:**

- 2% of crashes involve texting behind the wheel, but 21% of crashes involve cell phone conversations (both hands-free and handheld)
- At any given moment, 0.6% of drivers are visibly manipulating hand held devices while 9% of drivers are talking on cell phones.

For a white paper on cognitive distraction, visit [thebrain.nsc.org](http://thebrain.nsc.org).

## Correcting Common Misconceptions

Talking on a cell phone, putting on makeup, eating fast food, tuning your radio or reading a map are all dangerous activities to do while driving. However, cell phone driving is a visual, mechanical and cognitive distraction. You also must consider duration and frequency. Thousands of people use cell phones while driving, and conversations often last for several minutes.

Determining contributing factors for motor vehicle crash data is a challenge because not all police reports capture that data. NSC believes estimates surrounding cell phone crashes are likely conservative.

Passengers are a safety benefit for adult drivers as the act as an extra set of eyes. A passenger in a vehicle is aware of the driving situation and can adjust his or her conversation accordingly. However, the person on the other end of the phone call isn't present, so he or she cannot adjust the conversation when the driving environment becomes more challenging. Also, cell phone conversation often carries a certain obligation of immediacy to respond.

## What you can do

### If you are tempted to use your cell phone when driving:

- Change your voicemail greeting to indicate you are driving and will call back when safely parked
- Put your cell phone in your trunk or glove box
- Turn your cell phone on silent
- If you need to contact someone, pull over to a safe location and put your vehicle in Park

### If your a passenger and the driver wants to use a cell phone:

- Tell the driver you are uncomfortable with his or her cell phone use

### If you are talking to someone who is driving:

- Ask the person to call you when he or she is parked in a safe location
- Tell the person you will call back later

**Share this with you friends and family and visit [distractddriving.nsc.org](http://distractddriving.nsc.org) for more information.**