

Product Liability issues

A word to those who make, sell or use a mobile phone

A cell phone is a safe and harmless device, is it not?

What safety concerns could possibly arise with a cell phone? Well, provided it is big enough, you could incidentally bang someone on the head with it, and if it has an antenna, and you are sufficiently clumsy, you could also stab him in the eye, but that's about it, right?

Wrong. In the world of legal lounge lizards and aggressive consumers, much more can go wrong. In fact, any cell phone is a lethal weapon, capable of choking, blinding and deafening its owner, not to mention frying his brain. It follows, that if you manufacture, import or sell mobile phones, you'd better warn your customers properly. By the same token, cell phone users better heed the dangers.

Just look to the potential risks connected with cell phone use, presented to you in alphabetic order:

Acoustic shock

A cell phone is also a powerful sound generator. High-pitched sounds will emit from the earpiece when you receive a call. Holding the phone close to the ear in these situations may damage your hearing.

Addiction

Excess phone talking or use of SMS can develop into an addictive condition - according to recent surveys.

Aircraft accidents

Surveys have confirmed that cellular phones pose a real risk to airplane control systems.

Arthritis

Or fatigue of the finger joints is yet another risk derived from an overly close relationship with your phone and continuous SMS'ing. One might add; a poor financial situation.

Blindness

Many modern phones are fitted with an infrared connector (IrDA). This connector can emit a powerful beam of red light when in use, so take care not to look directly into the light.

Cancer

It remains an open question whether cell phone radiation can cause cancer to the brain. Probably it is not a big issue, otherwise we would have seen numerous incidents at this point, but the radiation is there and the risk must be taken into account.

Choking

A cell phone contains a SIM card, a small plastic device that will fit

neatly in any child's larynx. Unfortunately, it is air-tight and will not allow the necessary ventilation. Antenna parts, loose keys or other small parts of the phone may serve the same purpose.

Corrosion

A cell phone also has a battery. If the battery breaks, corrosive liquids will be released, and these may burn your skin, your eyes or mucus tissues.

Dementia

Maybe you will not acquire cancer by the radiation, but other indicators point to a risk of related brain damages such as dementia.

Fire & explosions

Every time you press a key on your cell phone, a connection is established. Thus a tiny, tiny spark is produced. In a worst case scenario, this may trigger an explosion in combustible vapors and boom...

But you do not need gas, vapors or gunpowder to create an explosion. Several incidents have demonstrated that batteries - non-original, cheap batteries that is - are perfectly capable of exploding all by themselves.

Harassment accusations

Most new cell phones feature built-in camera, camcorder and voice recording. These are nice features if you want to send the kids a photo of you next to the Niagara Falls, but it can have some less encouraging sidekicks too. Just imagine being accused of - or denied access to certain areas for grounds of:

- Breach in company security (visitors with cameras)
- Breach of privacy (locker-room photographing)
- Paparazzi-style photographing (celebs)
- Perpetrator equipment (info gathering for terror purposes)

Not to mention the most horrific accusation of them all:

The pedophilia issue

Heart problems

If you or someone close to you (!) depends on a pacemaker... well, don't get too close. Pacemakers do not like cell phones, and the same may be the case with hearing aides and other medical robocop gadgets you may be using.

Traffic accidents

If you are distracted by a phone call while going 100 mph, you are accident-prone. We all know that, but does that keep you from using the phone while driving. It does? Good boy! Let's just hope your fellow drivers feel the same way...

And by the way - make sure that your airbags are shielded against electromagnetic radiation or you might get to test the function the hard way.

Poisoning

The corrosive substances inside the battery are probably also poisonous and not recommended as a mixer in your drink, finger licking or other form of consumption.

Ready to dump your phone yet...

It's too early to despair - it is going to get worse. But our ancestors had to face harsh living conditions too; famine, wild animals, an unforgiving nature and a punishing climate - and as we know, they made it! You will too, as long as you use your best judgment - *and a first class compensation lawyer of course ;-)*

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