

	POLICY	
	HR-125 Distracted Driving/Helming	
	Original Date	Revision Date
	January 10, 2003	October 1, 2025

Policy

RCMSAR does not support or condone the operation of private motor vehicles or RCMSAR vessels in an unsafe fashion or in contravention of the law.

Reason for Policy

In most communities RCMSAR members respond to their vessels by driving their own (or other privately owned) motor vehicles. RCMSAR does not support or condone the operation of these motor vehicles in a fashion what could be dangerous or in contravention of the law.

For RCMSAR members to be able to perform their tasking on the water, they must first safely arrive at their vessels. Operating motor vehicles in a dangerous manner or in contravention of the law may result in members not arriving at the vessel in good time and delay the vessel getting underway. RCMSAR members are encouraged to take extra caution to ensure that while responding to a task (i.e. a callout) that they operate any motor vehicle in a safe manner.

One responsibility of a helmsman is to ensure safety of the vessel by steering to avoid hazards. This cannot be guaranteed if the helmsman is distracted by the operation of an electronic device such as a cell phone. This risk is increased further at high speed.

Guideline(s)

Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used while at the helm.

If the operation of a cell phone or electronic device is required of the helmsman, the helm position shall be taken over by crewmember that is able to perform the helmsman duties without distraction.

Members in transit for duty shall comply with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Act of BC.

Bill Riggs
Bill Riggs (Oct 1, 2025 14:40:27 PDT)

Effective: January 10, 2003
Approved: CEO

Version: 2
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Updated: October 1, 2025
Document: HR-125