

As we begin 2010 there are several law changes that will take place at the State of Illinois level. Public Act 096-0131 which is amended to indicate that any person regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone or within a highway construction or maintenance speed zone. The exceptions to the law change pertain to emergency workers engaged in an emergency or if the telephone device is in a voice activated mode. Public Act 096-0130 prohibits any person from composing, reading, or sending an electronic message or text message while driving. The devices may be used if the driver is safely parked on the shoulder of the roadway or if the device is in hands free or voice activated modes. For additional details regarding the new laws visit the City of Geneseo web page.

The Premise Alert Program allows police agencies or agencies responsible for the Public Safety Answering Point (911) to collect information from citizens within the community pertaining to special circumstances. Agencies are then required to be able to identify and be aware of these situations when responding to calls or coming across individuals. A Special Needs person may have any conditions that require some sort of added attention or response on the part of the Police or Fire departments or other responders. This could include deafness, blindness, autism, mobility issues, inability to communicate, Alzheimer's disease, special medical needs or any condition that may affect the needs of the individual with regards to interactions with First Responders. The forms for this Premise Alert Program are available at the Geneseo Police Department 24 hours a day or on the web page for the police department.

Additional information is available at the police department web page, which can be viewed by going to [www.cityofgeneseo.com](http://www.cityofgeneseo.com) click on departments, click on police and choose from the categories on the right. You can also call the police department at (309)944-5141 any time of the day to have your questions answered.