

As the Air Health, Safety and Security Chairperson for AFA-CWA Local 55 in Boston I wish to go on record that the use of cellular phones on commercial aircraft is a terrible idea. There is no way to contain phone users on an ac from the other passengers for security reasons the FAA has already had galley curtains removed. Aircraft do not have separate facilities (like distinct cars of a train) where phone users can be isolated. We have a recent Flight Attendant report where a First Officer called our FA to find the person with an electronic device on in the cabin. The FA found a young man who had turned on his CD player during the landing process. The CD player caused static in the First Officers headset. I personally would not want to be on the AC where static in the headset caused a mistake of a seven taken for an eleven for an example.

Let us consider some problems that we are already experiencing on the aircraft. While playing a tape or orally making required announcements we have passengers on phones who ignore us and talk so loudly that the other passengers can not hear us. We are required to brief the exit row passengers but sometimes they are on their phones and to brief them can cause a flight delay. We already have passengers turning on phones before we have landed or before we are off the runway onto the taxi way.

What about an emergency ? How much extra time will it take for a passenger to hang up the phone and follow instructions? Might we have additional passenger disturbance issues?

Please consider the safety and security of all of the passengers before making a ruling on cellular phones on aircraft.