CATEGORY	ANALOG CELLULAR	DIGITAL CELLULAR	PCS
Frequency	ZHM 008	800 MHz	1900 MHz
Call Quality	Can lack clarity	Very clear	Very clear
Coverage: Nationwide Rural Access	Complete Good	Build-out in progress Poor	Build-out in progress Poor, may take a few years to improve
Security	Can be intercepted	More secure	More secure
Cost Phones Airtime	Inexpensive More than digital	Generally more expensive Less than analog	Generally more expensive Less than analog
Features	Call waiting, Call forwarding	Call waiting, call forwarding, Caller ID, voicemail, text messaging, numeric paging, Internet access	Call waiting, call forwarding, Caller ID, voicemail, text messaging, numeric paging, Internet access
Battery Life Talk Time On, Not Talking	1½ - 2 hours 24 – 40 hours	2 – 10 hours 3 – 17 days	2 – 10 hours 3 – 17 days

Access Fee: A special fee that local telephone companies are allowed to charge all telephone customers, including wireless, for the right to connect with the local phone network.

**Airtime:** Actual time spent talking on a cellular telephone. The longer you talk the higher the bill.

**Calling Party Pays:** This phrase is used when a person making a call to a cell phone pays for the call instead of the person who receives it. "Calling party pays" is available on a very limited basis.

**Off-peak:** The part of the day defined by the provider when customers can expect to pay reduced airtime rates, usually evenings and weekends.

**PCS:** *Personal Communications Service* A two-way digital voice, messaging and data wireless telephone service.

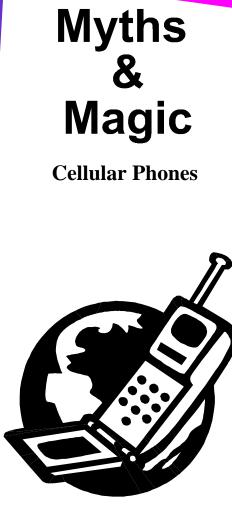
**Peak:** The part of the day defined by the provider when customers can expect to pay full service calling rates.

**Roaming:** The term given to a cellular phone's ability to make and receive calls outside the customer's home calling area.

**Smart Phone:** An expression used for cellular phones that can send and receive voice and data messages.

**Wireless Phone:** Cellular, mobile, portable, incar mounted, and bag phones are wireless.

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol Building 500 East Capitol Pierre SD 57501 Call: 1-800-332-1782

- Emergency Calls: In most areas just dial 911. You must know your exact location.
- Conversation Privacy: Conversations can be "picked up" on regular analog cellular service. Digital service is more secure.
- Usage Costs: In the United States, whether you place or receive a call on your cell phone, you are the one who pays for the call.

Out-of-Area Calls: Your home calling area is defined by your service plan. If you make or receive a call outside the boundaries of your home area, you may be charged long distance and/or roaming fees.

- Restricted Use: Some businesses such as hospitals, airlines, and theaters may restrict use of cell phones because the frequency can affect other equipment. Gas stations may caution against use of cell phones while refueling. If a phone is dropped and the battery is exposed it could emit ( sparks.
- Toll-free calls may not be toll free on cell phones.

Cellular service charges for "airtime". Read your contract or check with your provider before making a toll-free call.

- **Contracts:** Cell phone plans have numerous options, and many companies are willing to make changes from one plan to another during the length of the contract. Check with your provider concerning penalties or cancellation fees.
- Off-Peak & Weekend Hours: Many companies provide unlimited off-peak and weekend calling hours as part of their standard service. Make sure to ask the provider or read the contract to see if this service is available to you.

Cellular or wireless service is not regulated at the state level. If you have questions, comments or concerns, you may contact the Federal Communications Commission at:

**Consumer Information Bureau** 

Call: 1-888-225-5322 (Voice) Call: 1-888-835-5322 (TTY) Website: www.fcc.gov



