

# Texting Laws

## North Dakota

(Effective August 1, 2011)

- It is illegal to text message, email, instant message and access web pages for all drivers.
- Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using electronic communication devices, including cell phones, even if in hands-free mode.
- If you are caught, a fine of \$100 will be issued.

## Minnesota

(Effective August 1, 2019)

- It is illegal to hold your phone in your hand. Driver may not use phone at any time for video calling, live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at videos or photos, non-navigation apps, reading/typing texts on phone, etc.
- The law applies to drivers of all ages. Drivers under 18 with a permit are not allowed to make or answer calls while driving. (hand-held or hands free).
- If you are caught, a fine of \$300 will be issued.

U DRIVE.  
U TEXT.



## Text Messaging

lol no im nt bsy im only drving



SAFE  
K:DS  
GRAND FORKS

P.O. Box 6002  
Grand Forks, ND 58206-6002  
701.780.1489 phone  
jwangen@altru.org

6053-0155 JAN 22

# Distracted Driving



You are six times more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash while driving if you're texting, versus if you were intoxicated.

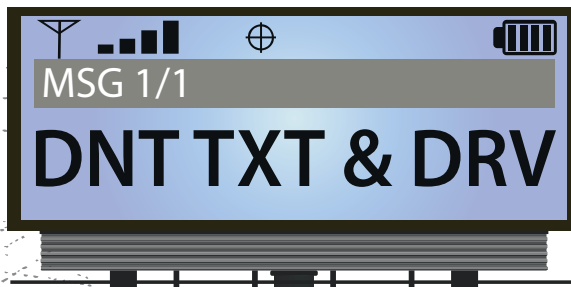
- Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Texting while driving doubles the chances for a car accident.

- AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2018

Texting behind the wheel can impair a driver's response time by 18% - or the time that it takes to blow a stop sign, run an intersection and broadside a family.

- Coyne Communications and Autoweek, 2010



## What you have to say can wait. Unless it's goodbye.

### Why texting and driving is bad.

#### You are distracted in three ways:

- **Mental Workload:**  
The work of composing text takes your mind off the road.
- **Control:**  
Using the phone means that only one hand is on the wheel.
- **Visual Attention:**  
Eyes are on the phone, not on the road.

#### Texting while driving causes:

- Slower reaction times:
  - 0.4 seconds longer.
  - 3 car lengths before you react.
- Inability to maintain safe following distance
- Inability to hold lane position
  - 91.4% more likely to drift into other lanes.

#### A.K.A. Inattentional Blindness

— is the failure to notice a fully-visible, but unexpected object because attention was engaged on another task, event, or object.

## Heather's Story



Heather's car shortly after it was pulled from the ditch after her crash and death.

On February 23, 2010, Heather was driving home from work when less than three miles from home, she decided to text back-and-forth with a friend.

**“Hey u and I need to hang sometime :-)”**

**“ alright cool :-)”**

The conversation wasn't that important. It could have waited....it was not worth her life.

**“Please don't text and drive. Come home alive.”**

— Dan and Wendy Lerch,  
Heather's Parents