

# CODE FOR THE ROAD

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information: NDDOT Safety Public Information Specialist, (701) 328-4559  
or contact local law enforcement (contact information can be provided on request.)

### **Increased enforcement for texting while driving in September**

*Bismarck* – In an effort to make roads safer, law enforcement in North Dakota’s major cities are on the lookout for texting drivers this month, strictly enforcing North Dakota’s ban on texting while driving.

Composing, reading or sending any electronic message or using a communications device to access the Internet while driving is illegal in North Dakota. The law applies to any driver of a vehicle in a traffic lane, even while stopped at a red light or in a construction zone. The fine for texting and driving in North Dakota is \$100.

The law exists to restrict texting while driving – a behavior so dangerous it puts the driver 23 times more at risk of a crash or near-crash event.

Yet the expansion of smart phone use continues to increase the number of people who connect to their device while driving. According to the [2015 North Dakota Statewide Traffic Safety Survey](#), only about one-third (36.8 percent) of respondents reported never texting while driving. This is a reduction from 48.3 percent of respondents who reported never texting while driving in 2014.

“This survey indicates that texting while driving is becoming an increasing problem in North Dakota,” said Karin Mongeon, Safety Division Director, North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). “We hope that continued enforcement and education of the dangers of texting and driving will convince those who text and drive to stop—to protect themselves, their families, and others on the road from a severe crash.”

This is the second year of added enforcement funded by federal grant dollars administered by the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Extra enforcement will extend through September 30. The texting enforcement patrols usually coordinate multiple vehicles and trained observers who may or may not be uniformed officers to observe texting while driving violations.

For more information on traffic safety initiatives in the state, please visit [ndcodefortheroad.org](http://ndcodefortheroad.org) or join the conversation at [www.facebook.com/CodefortheRoad](http://www.facebook.com/CodefortheRoad).