

VISION ZERO

Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2018

Law Enforcement to Participate in *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.*

Bismarck, ND – Starting September 4 through the end of the month, law enforcement agencies in North Dakota will participate in the statewide *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* campaign to make our roads safer by enforcing the ban on texting while driving. Texting drivers are six-times more likely to crash than a drunk driver.

Composing, reading or sending any electronic message or using a communications device to access the Internet while driving is illegal and punishable with a fine of \$100. 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.

Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using any electronic communications device, including cell phone. For 14- and 15-year-olds, this law carries a \$20 fine and 4 points on a driver's record. For 16- and 17-year-olds, this law carries a \$20 fine and no points on the driver's record.

Cell phone operating systems Apple and Android have “do not disturb while driving” settings available to help limit distractions while driving. To learn more about how to enable these features for your phone, search “how to enable do not disturb while driving” in your internet browser.

“Turn your phone on silent when you drive,” says Bismarck Police Lt. Jeff Solemsaas. “The less you hear it, the less likely you are to use it. Texting multiplies your chance of a crash 23 times, so it's time to turn off the noise and focus on driving.”

This campaign is part of the Vision Zero strategy to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads.

Visit the [North Dakota Crash Memorial](#) wall to view memorials built on the hope of preventing another death on North Dakota roads.

###

NDDOT
North Dakota
Department of Transportation