VERMONT

Department of Motor Vehicles
120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05603-0001

TEXTING

It doesn't take more than two seconds to go from this ....

to this ...

Remember, when you're driving, no texting!

VERMONT'S "TEXTING" LAW

- All drivers are prohibited from ***texting*** while operating a moving motor vehicle on a highway.
- Only drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from other use of ***portable electronic devices.***

What is the legal definition of "texting" according to this law?

Texting is: Reading or manually composing, or sending of electronic communications. Electronic communications include text messages, instant messages, or e-mails using a portable electronic device.

What is considered a "portable electronic device"?

A ***portable electronic device*** includes (but is not limited to) a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), and laptop computers. Use of a GPS or navigational system is permitted.

What are the penalties for violating Vermont's texting law?

Senior Operators – Operators 18 & Older
Texting *(1st offense)* - $100.00 fine & 2 points
Texting *(2nd & subsequent offense)* - $250.00 fine & 5 points
Use of Portable Electronic Devices Other Than Texting – No Violation For This Age Group

Junior Operators – Operators Under Age 18
Texting *(1st offense)* - $100.00 fine & 2 points + 30 day recall
Texting *(2nd & subsequent offense)* - $250.00 fine & 5 points + 30 day recall
Use of Portable Electronic Devices Other Than Texting – $100.00 fine & 2 points

A message from Robert Ide, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles…

"Distracted driving is a national epidemic. Make responsible choices to improve safety for yourself, your passengers, and others who share the highways."

Questions? Call 802-828-2156

www.dmv.vermont.gov

Putting A Face To It

All were killed by drivers who were texting while driving.

This list represents a small number of accidents involving texting ...

Arizona — Police report that 18-year-old Ashley Miller was sending a text message when she crossed the center line and slammed into a vehicle driven by Stacey Stubbs. Both Miller and Stubbs were killed.
Arizona — An 18-year-old girl slammed head-on into another car killing both drivers. Police report the accident was caused by the teen texting on her phone.
Arkansas — Paul Davidson, 41, was killed when 27-year-old Michael Blanchard crossed the center line. Authorities said that Blanchard had been texting on his phone.
Arkansas — Kevin L. Castillo, 22, was text-messaging on his phone when his truck left the road and crashed. Castillo died in the crash.
Arkansas — Mariah West, 18, was killed when she lost control of her car causing it to flip several times. Her family says she was text-messaging at the time of the crash.
California — Deborah Matis-Engle, 49, was using her text-messaging feature to pay bills when she slammed into cars that were stopped on the highway. Petra Winn, 46, was killed when her car burst into flames from the impact.
California — According to the Highway Patrol, Ronald Rudisill, 63, was killed by a driver who was allegedly driving under the influence of drugs and sending a text message. The driver didn't see that traffic had stopped.
California — 16-year-old Kayla Preuss was killed when the vehicle she was driving went out of control and crashed. She had been drinking, speeding, and sending text messages at the time of the crash. Her open cell phone was found at her feet.
Colorado — 18-year-old Makayla Lynn Belew was killed after being hit by a driver who was text messaging on his phone.
Colorado — Jim R. Price, 63, was hit and killed while riding his bicycle in the bicycle lane of Wildcat Reserve Parkway. The 17-year-old driver was text-messaging on his cell phone when he hit Mr. Price.
Florida — Stephanie Phillips, 37, and Heather Hurd, 26, were killed when a tractor-trailer ran a stop light. The trucker was distracted by text-messaging on his phone. Numerous other people suffered injuries.
Illinois — Alyssa Burns, 17, was text-messaging at the time she lost control of her vehicle, killing her.
Indiana — Sarah L. Woodruff, 20, was killed when her car left the road and flipped 6 times. State Police report that Sarah had been texting on her phone.
Indiana — Rodney Thompson, 18, was killed when he lost control and struck a utility pole. A 15-year-old female passenger said that Rodney had been texting on his phone at the time of the crash.
Kansas — Ashley Umscheid, 19, was killed when her vehicle left the road and flipped. Ashley had been text-messaging on her phone.
Maine — A 16-year-old girl told authorities that she smashed into a parked car because she dozed off, but officers discovered that she had really been texting.
Massachusetts — John McCarthy, 58, was hit and killed by a driver who admitted to sending a text message at the time of the crash.
Massachusetts — Craig P. Bigos, 31, told authorities that he was trying to drive and send a text message when he lost control of his SUV and killed 13-year-old Earman Machado.
Massachusetts — Police report that Melissa Martin, 17, was text-messaging at the time she drove her car off the road and into a tree, killing her.
Michigan - 18-year-old Eric Helm was texting his girlfriend back and forth in the minutes leading up to the accident in which he was killed. He crossed into oncoming traffic at a curve in the road and hit a pickup truck head-on.
Missouri — Two-year-old Jackson Moore was killed when his dad—who was riding an ATV with his son—looked down to check an incoming text message.
New Mexico — Witnesses report that 41-year-old Douglas Flores was trying to text message when his moped slammed into a telephone pole. Flores was killed.
New York — Five girls who had recently graduated high school were killed when their SUV crashed. Phone records show that the phone registered to the driver (Bailey Goodman) was in use at the time of the crash. Evidence also suggests that she was speeding.
Texas — Witnesses report that 49-year-old Gabriele Zarecor was text-messaging when her vehicle struck a concrete barrier. Zarecor was killed in the crash.
Utah — James A. Furfaro, 38, and Keith P. Odell, 50, were killed when 21-year-old Reggie Shaw sideswiped their vehicle. Phone records show that Shaw had been text-messaging from the time he left home to the time of the accident.
Washington — Witnesses told the FBI that Sela Anne Kalama, 19, was texting on her phone when she drove off the road and into a river. 17-year-old Vanna K. Francis and 15-year-old Ronnie Scroggins were killed in the crash.
Wyoming — Bradley Johnson, 20, was killed while apparently reading a text message when his vehicle crashed.
Wyoming — 17-year-old Mitchell Birch was killed when his car left the road and went down an embankment. State Police suspect that he was either sending or reading a text message at the time of the accident.
Wyoming — Brittany Rentas, 16, was killed after the car she was driving collided with another vehicle. Rentas had been texting on her phone.

Help save lives by taking our message seriously!

VERMONT