Distracted Driving

Technological advancements allow us to multi-task and get more done in a shorter amount of time. However some tasks require our undivided attention to be conducted safely. Driving is one such task. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Distraction.gov in 2013, 3,154 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. This represents a 6.7 percent decrease in the number of fatalities recorded in 2012. Unfortunately, approximately 424,000 people were injured, which is an increase from the 421,000 people who were injured in 2012. Drivers in their 20s make up 27 percent of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes.

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

In addition to the ND and MN law of prohibiting all the components of texting while driving, NDSU as part of North Dakota Risk Management Program and NDSU Safe Operating Procedure prohibit the use of handheld cellphone devices while operating a vehicle, whether the vehicle is in motion or stopped at a traffic light.

To help keep yourself and others safe while driving, the National Safety Council challenges you to not drive distracted in any way by choosing NOT to:

- Have a phone conversation—handheld, hands-free, or via Bluetooth
- Text or send Snapchats
- Use voice-to-text features in your vehicle’s dashboard system
- Check or send emails
- Take selfies or film videos
- Input destinations into the GPS (while the vehicle is in motion)
- Call or message someone else when you know they are driving

April is designated Distracted Driving Awareness Month

> Texting while driving is by far the most alarming distraction due to the visual, manual, and cognitive attention it requires.

> Hands-free is NOT Risk-free.
Reminder: Watch your Step

With the weather fluctuating between warmer and colder temps, the Safety Office would like to remind you to be ever vigilant when walking outdoors. Melting snow can quickly become icy areas on sidewalks and parking lots. Pay particular attention when stepping out of your car or when walking between vehicles where ice has a tendency to build up. With an uptick in incidents, it is a good time to reassess how we travel about on campus. Being aware of the surrounding conditions is a good first line of defense. Avoid the bad habit of having your eyes solely focused on your smartphone as you traverse and rely on your whole field of vision, not just your periphery. Make sure your are wearing the proper footwear and take your time as it will assist you in making your way to and fro safely. Lastly if you see an area that is particularly icy, complete a Near Miss Report and contact Facilities Management (1-7911) or the proper department. Be proactive and report those areas that pose a potential slip and fall hazard.

Annual Notice of Policies/Designated Medical Provider

Reminder that the Annual Notice of Policies/Designated Medical Provider is now provided through Moodle, an online Learning Management System. Completing the required annual online notice will require that you log in using your NDUS username and password (the same as you use to view your paycheck or class schedule), then review the material content and complete the acknowledgement page and the Designated Medical Provider selection. A paper copy will no longer be sent out. The link can be found at: https://www.ndsu.edu/police_safety/annual_notices_and_training/
The cities of Fargo, Moorhead, Dilworth and West Fargo will all participate in Cleanup Week held May 2nd through the 6th. This annual event cleans up our cities by giving residents an opportunity to dispose of tires, appliances and other large items at no charge on their garbage collection days.

Cleanup Week rules for all cities:

- Separate items of the same type into distinct piles (tires, appliances, furniture, brush, household garbage, etc.). Separate trucks collect the items.

- Place garbage in disposable containers, except for oversized items. Items will be collected on your normal garbage pickup day. Crews will not return to pick up garbage set out too late.

- Remove refrigerator and freezer doors. Do not place food or any other waste inside appliances.

- Items must be from residences; no commercial waste will be accepted. Keep household garbage at least four feet away from other cleanup week items.

For more information and additional cleanup rules for your city go to: http://www.cleanupweek.com/

“...This annual event cleans up our cities by giving residents an opportunity to dispose of ... large items at no charge on their garbage collection days.”

Spring Flooding 2016

According to the National Weather Service with the mild and somewhat dry conditions expected to continue into spring, the threat for significant flooding in the region is low. With the El Niño affect still in play, a mild thaw cycle is expected but a slight risk remains. To stay up to date on the changing conditions and forecasts, the following links are good sources of Information:

National Weather Service Forecast Office Link: http://www.crh.noaa.gov/outlooks/fgf

City of Fargo Flood Information Link: c

City of Moorhead Flood Information Link: http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/departments/engineering/floodplain-information

City of West Fargo Flood Information Link: http://www.westfargond.gov/Home/Departments/Public Works/FloodInformation.aspx
Annual Safety Training

Baseline Safety training is a mandatory training for all NDSU employees—faculty, staff and student employees. If you are a supervisor, it is mandatory that you take both Supervisor Safety Training and Baseline Safety Training. Both courses must be completed on an annual basis.

Online training (including Baseline Safety and Supervisor Safety) is administered through Moodle, an online Learning Management System. Completing the online training courses will require that you log in using your NDUS username and password, review the training content and take the associated quiz. Your completion of the quiz online will record your completion of the training requirement.

Laboratory Safety Training is required for employees that work in laboratory spaces. Principal investigators and those in charge of laboratory operations need to complete all seven training modules whereas employees within the laboratory spaces need to complete modules 1-6. For more information and links to the training visit the Safety Office website at: http://www.ndsu.edu/police_safety/training/

Track Training is an application developed to assist employees and supervisors with training compliance. For more information and to view a tutorial visit: http://www.ndsu.edu/hr/training/annual_training/