Hands Free
Minnesota Style

Phone Down. Save Lives.
HANDS-FREE MINNESOTA
HandsFreeMN.org

DriveSafeMN.org
Hands-free Cell Phone Use

MINNESOTA IS HANDS FREE STARTING AUGUST 1, 2019!

The new law requires hands-free use of cell phones. You can use your phone like this:

- **Voice-activated**
- **Other hands-free modes like a headset or one-touch**
- **As voice activated or hands-free GPS**
- **Hand-held use in an emergency**
Bill Features

- Updates the definition of Wireless Communications Device to exclude devices or features that are part of the vehicle including GPS systems.
- Defines voice-activated or hands-free mode.
- Defines when a vehicle is not part of traffic (to address how to pullover and use a phone).
- Prohibits wireless communications device (cell phone) uses.
- Provides conditions under which a cell phone may be used:
  - Allows voice-activated or hands-free use, including as a GPS system.
  - Allows HAND HELD use to obtain emergency assistance or when life or safety are in danger.
  - Allows use in authorized emergency vehicles while on duty.
- Does not allow access to video content, video calling, live-streaming or reading electronic messages (all activities that take the driver’s eyes off the road).
Coalition

- A core group of 20 families of victims
- Support from 100s of other families and friends of victims
Coalition

- 23 Business organizations including the Insurance Federation of MN, MN Trucking Association and MN Chamber of Commerce
Coalition

- Key traffic safety agencies and advocates like the MN Department of Public Safety, Bicycle Alliance of MN and the MN Safety Council
Tough Questions...
Hands Free doesn’t work so why do it?

Hands Free DOES work...

12 of 15 states that have adopted hands free have seen an average decrease in fatalities of more than 15%.

If Minnesota sees this same decrease, we will save 50-60 lives per year!
Why worry about a problem that’s only in the city?

In Minnesota...

65% of crashes are in the Twin Cities metro area.

Only 35% of crashes occur in Greater MN...BUT...

75% of fatalities occur in Greater MN.

Distraction impacts everyone!
What if I’m in a crash and am accused of using my phone illegally? How can I prove my innocence?

It is possible on both Apple and Android systems to look at activity logs to ascertain exactly how a phone was being used.

The burden of proof lies with law enforcement to show illegal use, not the driver to prove innocence.
Don't forget - Minnesota's Hands-free law starts August 1st!