

September 2024

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Safety Newsletter

Do Not Disturb While Driving Day Oct. 17, 2024

Distracted driving continues to be a serious safety concern for drivers on today's roads. It includes taking your eyes off the road, your hands off the steering wheel and your mind off driving. Cell phone use plays a big part in contributing to distracted driving. The National Distracted Driving Coalition urges you to use your phone's own settings to help prevent this.

October 17, 2024, will be the third annual National Do Not Disturb While Driving Day (DNDWD). This day draws attention to a life-saving feature that is already integrated into every smartphone. Do Not Disturb While Driving settings block calls, texts and other notifications while you're driving, and help keep you focused on the road ahead.

The goal is to encourage individuals to turn on their phone's DNDWD feature. North Dakota State University, along

with their participation in the ND Risk Management Program, prohibits employees from using cell phones while operating a vehicle while on state business.



You have a choice! Show you care about the lives of your friends, family members and even strangers. Choose to stay safe by turning on your phone's Do Not Disturb function and tell others to do the same. Join our movement and spread the word: enabling a simple setting on your phone could save your life.

Officially, distracted driving claimed 3,522 lives in 2021. An estimated 362,000 people were injured in crashes involving distracted drivers in 2021. The true toll of distracted driving is

surely much larger. A recent government study estimates that distraction was involved in 29% of all crashes in 2019, resulting in 10,546 fatalities, 1.3 million nonfatal injuries, and \$98.2 billion in economic costs

Do Not Disturb While Driving automatically silences and prevents incoming notifications from appearing on screen when a mobile phone connects to a vehicle or if it senses vehicle movement. These settings are available on Apple, Android and Pixel phones.

While DNDWD settings can help keep drivers focused, research has found that few drivers have the feature set to automatically engage while driving. Committing to this one simple act could have a large impact on distracted driving.

Fire Prevention Week is October 6 - 12, 2024

The theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2024 is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"™

Fire Departments are teaming up with the [National Fire Protection Association® \(NFPA®\)](#)—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) for more than 100 years—to promote this year's FPW campaign, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"™. The campaign works to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.



According to NFPA, smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms serve as the first line of defense in a home fire, but they need to be working in order to protect people," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps better educate the public about simple but critical steps they can take to make sure their homes have smoke alarms in all the needed locations and that they're working properly."

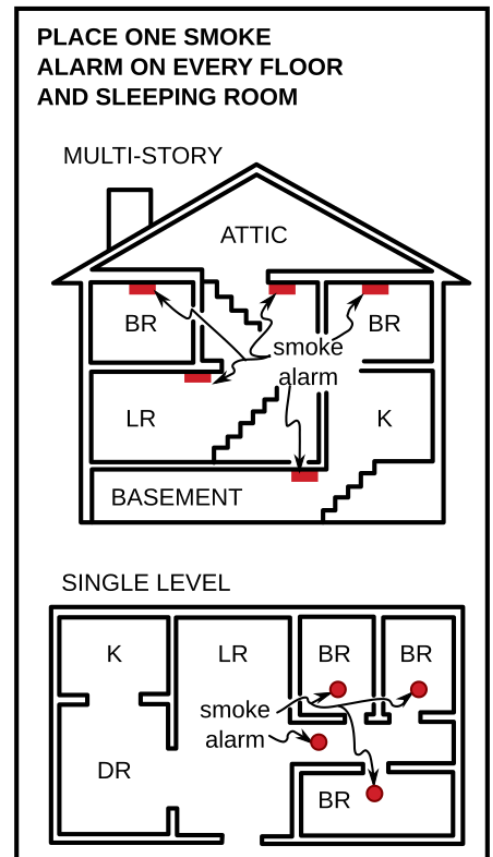
All residents are encouraged to actively support the 2024 FPW theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a home fire, giving people the time to get out safely. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is a great way to remind everyone about these messages and to act on them.

The NFPA offers these key smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.

- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit fpw.org.



Baseline Safety and Supervisor Safety Trainings

Baseline Safety training is a mandatory training for all NDSU employees. Staff, faculty and student employees including any part-time, temporary or seasonal positions are required to complete Baseline Safety training annually. Supervisors are required to complete both the Supervisor Safety training and Baseline Safety training each fiscal year by September 30. New employees have 60 days from their start date to complete their training. It's important to know what to do at the time of an incident. These trainings not

only provide basic safety information, but also information on how to report and respond to an incident which are critical pieces to NDSU's safety program. Please check your training [completions/obligations on the NDSU training platform](#) to ensure you have completed your Baseline Safety and Supervisor Safety (for supervisors) trainings this fiscal year. If you haven't completed your trainings, go to the Safety Office's [online training site](#) for information on how to complete the training(s).

[NDSU Safety Office Training Site](#)



Defensive Driving Course Scheduled

Robin Stephens from the ND Department of Transportation has scheduled four Defensive Driving Courses at NDSU.

Fleet Services requires those who operate fleet vehicles, on at least a monthly basis, to take the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course (DDC) as soon as practical after accepting employment, and every four years thereafter. Training for those who operate fleet vehicles less than monthly is at the discretion of agency trainers or risk managers. Fleet Services also requires those who have been involved in a motor vehicle accident with a State Fleet vehicle, or those who have received a traffic citation while operating a State Fleet vehicle in the past 12 months, to attend the DDC course within the calendar year of the accident or citation.

The University Police and Safety Office (UP&SO) encourages those who operate State Fleet vehicles less than monthly to attend the DDC class also, keeping in mind that priority will be given to those who meet the requirements above.

While the UP&SO recommends that individuals attend the DDC class in person, in instances where this is not feasible an online version is available. Please contact Monty Botschner at montgomery.botschner@ndsu.edu or 231-5637 for access to the online version.

[Defensive Driving Course Tuesday, November 12, 2024 12:30 PM](#)

[Defensive Driving Course Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:00 AM](#)

[Defensive Driving Course Thursday, October 3, 2024 12:30 PM](#)

[Defensive Driving Course Friday, October 4, 2024 8:00 AM](#)



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Sunday, November 3, 2024

