



## FMCSA proposal adds details to current texting ban

**T**he Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is proposing to toughen the punishment for truckers who text while driving.

Under the proposal, commercial drivers caught texting can be disqualified from driving, on top of the hefty fines that are now in place.

The proposal spells out the agency's thinking on the texting ban that it established in January, filling in details that could not be addressed in that earlier format.

The ban will cover about 7 million commercial interstate drivers of trucks and other vehicles ranging from 10,000 pounds gross weight rating up to Class 8 trucks rated at more than 26,000 pounds. Within this group are some 4.2 million drivers with commercial licenses.

The fines and disqualifications would apply to both groups, but the agency also is proposing to add state or local anti-texting laws to the list of serious traffic violations that can trigger disqualification for CDL drivers.

The first texting offense, and each subsequent offense, would lead to a fine of up to \$2,750. If a driver commits a second offense within three years he would be disqualified for at least 60 days. Three offenses within three years would lead to a 120-day disqualification.

The Department of Transportation is moving aggressively against texting because it is highly risky and it has grown dramatically. Drivers who are texting are 23.2 times more likely to get into a crash than those who are not, according to recent research. There is no data yet on how many drivers are texting but the wireless industry has reported a 2,200 percent increase in texting



over five years.

FMCSA believes an explicit federal prohibition is needed to keep texting among commercial drivers from becoming a widespread problem.

The agency said in its proposal that the trucking industry is on board with this approach, citing support from the American Trucking Associations for a ban on texting and the use of handheld devices while driving. It also noted that many trucking companies do not allow drivers to operate any electronic devices when the truck is moving. In an ATA survey of fleets, 67 percent of respondents said their policies restrict the use of portable electronic devices while driving.

## You asked for it and here it is!

## Try the New Scan & Go Express in Safety! Faster, Easier, Quieter!!

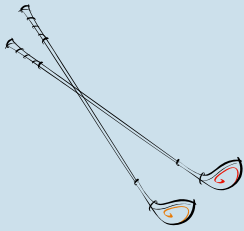
The agency added that its proposal should not be seen as a move to prohibit the use of onboard technology such as electronic dispatching or fleet management systems, or of cell phones for uses other than texting. It will take up these issues in separate rulemakings, the agency said.

The agency plans to define "texting" as entering text or reading text on an electronic device, which can include but is not limited to a cell phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager or a computer. Texting will not include reading, entering or selecting a phone number or voicemail retrieval code.

The agency said its intention is to focus on the behavior, not the device.

For that reason, the agency said safety-conscious fleet managers should not allow or require their drivers to type or read messages while driving. "To the extent that there are fleets that require drivers to type and read messages while they are driving, the agency will consider appropriate regulatory action to address the safety problem."

Some types of drivers, such as firefighters and emergency vehicle operators, are exempt from the proposal under federal law. Also, FMCSA cannot directly regulate intrastate drivers but the proposal is likely to reach them anyway because states eventually match the agency's rules to keep getting federal highway funds.



# ARE YOU READY FOR THE

## 2010 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

### SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 1P.M. SHOTGUN START

#### WILLOW CREEK GOLF COURSE (GREEN)

### 2 PERSON BEST BALL



Sign up sheets will be posted in Drivers lounge, mechanics lounge, Safety Department and Operations by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

# WANTED!

PLEASE CHECK TRUCKS FOR STRAPS & YELLOW TIE DOWNS. THESE NEED TO BE RETURNED TO THE SHOP. PLEASE TURN EXTRAS INTO PATTY ASAP.

## Best & Worst States for Driving!

### Best Driving States

Kansas  
Oregon  
South Dakota  
Minnesota  
Iowa

### Worst Driving States

New York  
New Jersey  
Washington  
California  
Rhode Island  
[Consumeraffairs.com](http://Consumeraffairs.com)





# JULY



## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

OLSEN	G	1ST
WEILER	M	1ST
GOLLADAY	S	2ND
GREENE	T	4TH
UITDEFLESCH	J	4TH
GONZALES	J	5TH
SUTTON	A	6TH
DAVIDSON	A	9TH
HANSEN	C	9TH
HANSEN	J	10TH
FOREMAN	C	10TH
HOCHSTEIN	M	11TH
BLANCHARD	M	12TH
METZGER	R	14TH
KLEINHESSELINK	W	17TH
LAWREY	R	17TH
WENZEL	E	17TH
HARING	D	18TH
PEACOCK	E	18TH
NELSON	L	18TH
DETLOFF	L	20TH
RASMUSSEN	C	23RD
BROWNMILLER	A	23TH
BARKER	G	25TH
BRITTON	J	26TH
BLANCHETTE	B	28TH

LALK	R	28YRS
LULF	J	18YRS
FOREMAN	C	13YRS
SIMS	K	13YRS
MESSERSCMIDT	M	11YRS
WEILER	M	10YRS
PENDERGRASS	H	9YRS
HERRMANN	D	9YRS
FORTNER	J	8YRS
LANGE	G	8YRS
RIEDEMANN	D	7YRS
STAPELTON	H	6YRS
ROLFES	L	5YRS
MYERS	P	5YRS
MYERS	J	5YRS
BAKER	R	4YRS
SCHNEIDER	R	2YRS
TUTTLE	J	1YR
NELSO	L	1YR
BAKER	B	1YR
PILIPONIS	P	1YR





# AUGUST



## BIRTHDAYS

LALUMENDRE	M	1ST
BRUSCHER	D	2ND
CRAY	W	2ND
MOREHOUSE	R	2ND
DORSCHNER	K	3RD
GIBSON	D	4TH
PUHL	C	4TH
DELPERDANG	P	5TH
BLIVEN	B	5TH
WALSH	J	6TH
MAYFIELD	R	7TH
LULF	J	7TH
MULLEN	S	7TH
DEVOS	P	8TH
MCCHESENEY	J	8TH
GIBSON	K	8TH
MYERS	P	10TH
PAGELER	S	12TH
DVORAK	J	12TH
SCAPER	M	12TH
KLUVER	G	12TH
WELLINGTON	D	14TH
POWELL	M	14TH
MILLER	J	16TH
LONG	E	17TH
PARKER	J	18TH
ALBERS	R	19TH
MADISON	J	20TH
ANDERSON	J	21ST
PENDERGRASS	H	22ND
PETERS	T	24TH
ROLFES	L	26TH
FORCH	M	28TH
LALK	R	28TH
HARMS	K	29TH
LONGWELL	K	29TH
DETLOFF	T	30TH

## ANNIVERSARIES

PLOOSTER	B	23 YRS
PUHL	C	22 YRS
RIDDLE	J	11 YRS
WESTERGARD	M	11 YRS
LALUMENDRE	M	9 YRS
ELLIS	S	8 YRS
GRAY	S	5 YRS
BROWN	B	5 YRS
BELK	J	4 YRS
SCHAPER	M	2 YRS
LEE	D	1 YR
WEILER	G	1 YR



## JOKE!

### New driver's license

Martin had just received his brand new drivers license. The family troops out to the driveway, and climbs in the car, where he is going to take them for a ride for the first time. Dad immediately heads for the back seat, directly behind the newly minted driver.

"I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front passenger seat teaching me how to drive," says the beaming boy to his father.

"Nope," comes dad's reply, "I'm gonna sit here and kick the back of your seat as you drive, just like you've been doing to me all these years."