

ARS NIFA ERS NASS

Bulletin

Title: Ban on Text Messaging While Driving on Official Business

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Originating Office: Acquisition and Property Division, Property and Support Services Branch

Distribution: All REE Employees

This Bulletin informs employees of Executive Order 13513, which establishes a Federal Government-wide ban on text messaging while driving a Government owned or leased vehicle and when using equipment provided by the Government, when driving.

1. Background

Executive Order 13513, dated October 1, 2009, established a Federal Governmentwide prohibition on text messaging while driving on official business. While the new Executive Order bans driving while texting in a Government vehicle or with Government equipment, while driving, employees are also responsible for being aware of local laws in your driving area requiring use of hand-free devices while driving. Employees are responsible for obeying State/local laws while driving a Government vehicle.

2. Policy

Effective immediately, REE employees shall not engage in text messaging:

- when driving Government-owned or leased (GSA or commercially leased), or
- when driving a privately-owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business, or
- when using electronic equipment supplied by the Government, while driving.

The above policy includes all REE contractors, cooperators, volunteers, students, etc., that are **authorized to operate a Government owned or leased vehicle or use Government supplied-electronic equipment (capable of text messaging)**.

For contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements awarded on or after October 1, 2009, REE offices will **encourage** all contractors, grantees, cooperators subcontractors, grant recipients and subrecipients to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging:

- while driving company-owned or -rented vehicles, when on official Government business,
- while driving POV when on official Government business,
- when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.

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