



DP61

DISTRACTED VEHICLE OPERATION

DP61

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POLICY

1. All Delta Police Department (Department) employees and volunteers shall operate Department vehicles in accordance with *Motor Vehicle Act (MVA)* Sections 214 (1-6) in conjunction with the identified procedures of this policy.
2. All Department members shall operate Department vehicles in accordance with the procedures of this policy despite the peace officer exemption in MVA Section 214 (3).

REASON FOR POLICY

3. To ensure that all employees and volunteers operate Department vehicles in a safe manner when utilizing electronic devices.
4. To ensure that all employees and volunteers operate Department vehicles in accordance with applicable statutory legislation and Department policy and procedures.

RELATED POLICIES

- DP20 – Property & Equipment Management
- DP31 – Operational Communications Equipment & Use
- DP60 – Department Vehicles
- EA30 – Reportable Incidents of Injuries or Death (B.C. Police Act)
- IM60 – Motor Vehicle Collisions



DEFINITIONS

5. For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions will apply:

Electronic Device: refers to the following:

- a) cellular phones;
- b) electronic devices that include a hands-free telephone function;
- c) global positioning systems;
- d) hand-held electronic devices, one of the purposes of which is to process or compute data;
- e) hand-held audio and/or video devices;
- f) hand microphones (communication device that consists of a hand-held unit and is a microphone and/or receiver, is operated by a push and hold function to talk, and allows for oral communication but not for the transmission and receipt of oral communication at the same time); and
- g) televisions.

Messaging: the practice of sending or receiving electronic communication by computer or cellular phone.

Operate: includes the function of driving.

Use: in relation to an electronic device, means one or more of the following actions:

- a) holding the device in a position in which it may be used;
- b) operating one or more of the device's functions; or
- c) communicating orally by means of the device with another person or another device.

PROCEDURES

General

- 6. All employees and volunteers shall use 'hands-free' technology in conjunction with a cellular phone, where equipped, while operating a Department vehicle.
- 7. All employees and volunteers shall not engage in the use of any device (either personal or Department issued) using a display screen to send



and/or receive electronic mail, data or other text-based messages while operating a Department vehicle.

8. If an employee or volunteer needs to use a cell phone while operating a Department vehicle, where no 'hands-free' technology is available, they shall pull to the side of the road and bring the vehicle to a safe stop prior to using the cell phone.

Radios & Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs)

9. Digital mobile and portable radios and MDTs are exempt under this policy when safely used to perform legitimate police functions. Members are responsible for operating a police vehicle in a safe manner at all times.
10. If the safe operation of the vehicle is impaired by reading or viewing of the MDT screen (i.e. heavy traffic, school zones, adverse weather or road conditions, complex or multiple inquiries, etc.) members shall move to a safe location and safely stop the vehicle to use the MDT.
11. Members can continue to use one button or one touch responses for indicating the member is:
 - a) en-route to a call;
 - b) arriving on scene;
 - c) deploying the emergency button;
 - d) clearing a scene; or
 - e) refreshing the MDT.

*Revised Dates:
20 June 2018