

Use of Wireless Communication and/or Electronic Devices in Vehicles

Personnel Policy Amendment

Effective Date: July 1, 2015

Date of Adoption: May 18, 2015

1. Employees shall not operate cell phones, electronic devices capable of providing voice or data communication, or any other electronic devices while operating a Town owned vehicle, and/or while in the performance of Town business and operating any vehicle, except when using such devices in the hands-free mode.
2. This shall apply to Town owned/issued devices, or devices that are owned by the employee while conducting any and all Town business.
3. Employees shall not initiate and/or receive calls, or use cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads, or other devices that require data entry while driving except when absolutely necessary during an emergency as provided by law. (NH RSA 265:79-c)
4. If an employee must initiate or receive a call, text message or other communication from an electronic device that is not hands-free, they shall drive to a safe location (i.e. a designated text stop), stop the vehicle prior to activating the device, and shall remain there until the communication is completed.
5. A violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action taken shall be consistent with the Town of Sunapee, Personnel policy.
6. Employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of any electronic device while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.

Major Points of RSA 265:79-c

- No use of hand held electronic devices capable of providing voice or data communication while driving or temporarily halted in traffic for a stop sign or traffic signal or other momentary delays
- This includes cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads, or other devices that require data entry
- Emergency calls to 911 or other public safety agencies will be allowed
- Bluetooth or other hands-free electronic devices will be allowed
- One hand non-cellular 2-way radio use will be allowed
- Teen drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use any electronic devices (hand held or not) except to report an emergency. Anyone violating this will be subject to penalties and license suspension or revocation.