

CRIME

Is it legal to text while at a red light in Oregon? What law says



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Traffic deaths in Oregon declined in 2025. In Salem, [fatalities decreased](#) after a record high in 2024, and local law enforcement credited improved driving behavior. [Statewide](#), there were 490 total motor vehicle traffic fatalities, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

It's unclear how many of those fatalities resulted from distracted driving, but from 2017 to 2021, there were 2,005 crashes caused by drivers reported to have been using a cellphone at the time of the crash. Those crashes resulted in 15 fatalities and 1,775 injuries, an ODOT report said.

What does Oregon law say about using your cellphone while driving? Here's what to know.

Is it legal to text at a red light in Oregon?

No, it is not legal to text at a red light in Oregon.

[ORS 811.507](#) specifically defines "driving" as operating a vehicle, including "while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays."

Oregon lawmakers beefed up the state's distracted driving law in 2017, [passing House Bill 2597](#) after state traffic fatalities began sharply growing in 2013.

The bill expanded existing law to broadly prohibit any use of a cellphone while driving.

What are the penalties for using a mobile device while driving in Oregon?

Violating Oregon's distracted driving laws is a Class B violation with a maximum fine of \$1,000 if it's a first offense and if the behavior did not contribute to a crash.

A second offense, or if the distracted driving contributed to a crash, is a Class A violation punishable by a maximum fine of \$2,000.

A third offense within 10 years is a Class B misdemeanor and could be punished with a \$2,500 fine and up to six months in jail.

Oregon courts can waive fines for first-time offenders who did not contribute to a crash if they attend a distracted-driving class.

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