

Texting while driving in Illinois is both illegal and deadly. Drive Now. Text Later. You can't do both.

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Drive Now. Text Later. You can't do both.

January 1, 2011, marked the one-year anniversary of the state law that prohibits texting while driving.

A recent online survey indicated that 40 percent of you - our customers - did not know that it is illegal to text or e-mail at any time while driving on Illinois roads.

In Illinois, cell phone distractions, including texting, were the primary or secondary cause of more than **500 vehicle crashes** in the first half of 2010. Nationally, nearly **5,500 people** died in distracted driving-related crashes and nearly **500,000 were injured** in 2009.

The Illinois Tollway, Illinois Secretary of State, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation and AAA Chicago have come together to launch a new statewide campaign. Our goal is to raise awareness of the dangers of texting while driving and ultimately, reduce the number of cell phone-related accidents in Illinois.



All of us recognize that the issue of distracted driving is becoming increasingly challenging. It's our responsibility to make sure that Illinois residents know what's at stake.

Our customers need to focus on safe driving and remember to Drive Now. Text Later. You can't do both.

[Listen to the radio public service announcements](#)

[For more information](#)

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Tips to Avoid Distracted Driving

- Keep your eyes on the road.

February 2011

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Learn what to do.

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Three changes in 2011.

Holiday Hours

**FEB
11**

Lincoln's Birthday
Headquarters and Customer Service Centers - **Closed**
Customer Call Center hours 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**FEB
21**

President's Day
Headquarters and Customer Service Centers - **Closed**
Customer Call Center hours 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Drive 65 on I-355

The speed limit is



- Keep your mind on the road.
- Keep your hands on the wheel.
- Pull over to a safe location to use a cell phone.
- If you must answer the phone, use a hands-free device.
- Do not send or read text messages while driving.
- Blackberry users: When in the car, set up a "driving" profile on your smart phone to silence alerts and the phone.
- To listen to the radio, use the volume and station buttons on the steering wheel, instead of reaching for the center console.

Before you get on the road:

- Load compact discs in the player.
- Set up a pre-selected playlist on an MP3 player.
- Enter an address in the navigation system.

If you must text - visit a Tollway Oasis

Tollway customers who need to send or receive text messages and e-mails can stop at one of seven Oases located along the system. The free Wi-Fi service allows drivers to complete texting and access the Internet so they can focus their full attention on driving when they get back on the road.

Drive Now. Text Later.
You can't do both.

[For more information about the Tollway Oases](#)

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Ready for Tax Day? Let I-PASS Help.
I-PASS account history is immediately accessible.

I-PASS account history reports provide detailed information about I-PASS usage and can be used when itemizing expenses on your tax return. In addition, commercial accounts can generate reports that break out expenses for each fleet vehicle.

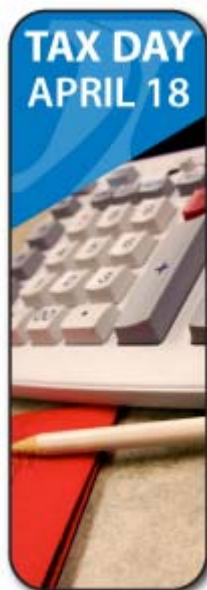
Just a few simple steps:

- 1) Log in to your I-PASS account.
- 2) Under account information, go to "Account Downloads."
- 3) Set your calendar year to necessary dates.
- 4) The system will then create and upload a CSV (comma separated values) file under "Available Files."

[Learn how to view your reports](#)

[Log in now](#)

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now 65 m.p.h. for cars traveling on the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) between I-55 and I-80.

The speed limit increase provides for safer and more efficient travel and is compatible with the 65 m.p.h. limit already in place on I-80 where it intersects with I-355.

A 55 m.p.h. speed limit continues to apply to trucks in this section, as well as to all other Illinois interstates in the metropolitan area including Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, Lake and McHenry counties.

[Read the News Release](#)

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Kids Safety: Being Prepared Makes Cents

Fines have increased for motorists who receive a citation under the Child Passenger Protection Act (625 ILCS 25/). The Act states that any child under 8 years or less than 40 pounds must be secured in a child restraint system.

On January 1, 2011, the following three changes went into effect:

- The fine for a first offense increased to \$75.
- The first offense fine can be waived if documentation is provided proving a child safety seat has been obtained and education has been received on the proper use and installation of the seat from a certified technician.
- The fine for all subsequent offenses increased to \$200 and cannot be waived.

Motorists can schedule appointments with Illinois State Police to have their child's safety seat inspected by a certified technician.

E-mail Administration Center

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