



When emergencies strike, calling 9-1-1 is often our first response. But what if you are in a place where cell service for a call is not optimal? How do those that are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired make an important connection to emergency services? Or, how about a situation where there is an intruder in your home and you don't want your voice to be heard? North Dakota 9-1-1 emergency response is now equipped with the ability for those needing assistance to also TEXT to this number. Here are some details on this service:

## **“9-1-1 Call If You Can. Text If You Can’t.”**

### **Text to 9-1-1 Available Statewide**

- Text messaging to 9-1-1 is available on cell phones in North Dakota.
- Texting should only be used when you are unable to make a voice call.
- Pictures and videos cannot be accepted at this time.
- Text to 9-1-1 messages may not automatically provide a location like a voice call.
- Texting to 9-1-1 near a state border may not go through.

### **How Do I Text to 9-1-1?**

- Enter the numbers "911" in the "To" field.
- Text message should be brief and include:
  - Location
  - Type of emergency
- "Send" message.
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 personnel.
- Text in simple words - do not use abbreviations.

## Why Would I Want to Text 9-1-1?

- It gives deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired communities direct access to 9-1-1 services.
- Text to 9-1-1 is ideal if you are in a situation where speaking could compromise your safety for example: active shooter, domestic violence, home invasion or abduction.
- A text or data plan is required to place a text to 9-1-1 message. Text to 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. It is a crime to text 9-1-1 with a false report.
- Do not text and drive!

For more details on this new feature offered in our state, visit [www.911.nd.gov](http://www.911.nd.gov) This information has been provided by the Safe Kids Coalition in North Dakota to include Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead, Safe Kids Bismarck-Mandan and Safe Kids Grand Forks. Remember **“9-1-1 Call If You Can. Text If You Can’t”** for your emergency service needs.

