

Brian Sandoval
Governor



Chris Perry
Director

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Traci Pearl, Administrator
Nevada Office of Traffic Safety
tpearl@dps.state.nv.us
(775) 684-7476

Bernie Curtis
Chief
Nevada Highway Patrol

Trooper Chuck Allen
Nevada Highway Patrol – Northern Command
Public Information Officer
callen@dps.state.nv.us
(775) 689-4680 or (775) 230-4921

Media Release

Seat Belt Usage Climbs in Fiscal Year 2011 NHTSA designated Nevada a “Low Fatality Rate” State

CARSON CITY – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently informed Nevada that the state’s 2012 fiscal year Performance Plan, Highway Safety Plan, Certification Statement and Cost Summary for federally funded highway safety activities has been reviewed and approved.

Based on the submissions, Nevada has been found to be in compliance with the requirements. The letter also makes note of Nevada’s fiscal year 2011 successes:

- Seat belt use climbed to 94.1%
- For the fourth year in a row, fewer drivers and operators with blood alcohol contents (BACs) over the legal limit were involved in fatal crashes
- With a numerical drop of 26 in the last year, Nevada has plummeted from 144 to 46 alcohol-involved fatalities in only six years, giving Nevada a highly-coveted Low Fatality Rate designation
- Serious injuries declined by 84
- Speed-related fatalities dropped by 18
- The number of young drivers involved in fatal crashes dropped by 13.

“I applaud the diligent work of Highway Patrol officers, the Departments of Public Safety and Transportation as well as everyday Nevadans in making our roads safer for motorists and pedestrians alike,” Governor Sandoval said. “We have made great strides in traffic safety and I am confident that with continued cooperation and partnerships, we will continue to make our roads even safer.”

Nevada’s Department of Transportation’s goal is “Zero Fatalities Nevada,” and current critical emphasis areas include seat belt usage, impaired driving, pedestrian safety, intersections, and lane departures that crash data have indicated as high priority traffic problems state wide. For more on Nevada’s Zero Fatalities campaign, visit <http://www.zerofatalitiesnv.com/>

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