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ZERO FATALITIES TRAFFIC SAFETY GOAL LAUNCHED TO SAVE LIVES IN NEVADA

www.DriveSafeNV.com

LAS VEGAS – An average of 325 people have lost their life annually on Nevada roads in recent years. The Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Highway Patrol, Nevada Office of Traffic Safety and safety partners across the state have launched a new Zero Fatalities traffic safety goal and educational campaign to save lives.

“When we each drive off to work, for a trip or for an errand, we expect to return safely,” NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. “Whether due to unsafe driving or something else, that tragically doesn’t always happen on Nevada roads. As drivers, as citizens, as transportation experts, it is time to stand up and say there is no number other than zero deaths that is acceptable on our roads. Zero Fatalities begins today with each Nevadan deciding to drive safely each time they get in their car.”

Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan

The new Zero Fatalities goal is part of a revamped Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The plan, developed in 2006 by more than 75 Nevada traffic and safety experts, identifies five Nevada-specific focus areas including increasing seat belt usage and pedestrian/intersection safety and reducing impaired driving. Traffic engineering, enforcement, education and emergency response strategies were developed in each area to reduce road deaths and injuries. The Nevada safety plan was updated in 2010 with additional life-saving strategies to help reach the new Zero Fatalities goal.

“We implemented the safety measures outlined in the 2006 plan, and traffic fatalities have dropped from an all-time high of 434 in 2006 to 256 in 2010,” NDOT Chief Safety Engineer Chuck Reider said. “But we didn’t want to leave it at that. We revamped the plan with updated strategies to continue saving lives and reduce traffic deaths to zero.”

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Over and above the life-saving strategies included in the safety plan, Nevada’s Zero Fatalities goal will be reached through a public education campaign educating motorists about traffic safety through public service announcements and other educational materials. The state’s Zero Fatalities goal is consistent with the national Toward Zero Deaths strategy led by the Federal Highway Administration and others.

“Many think that traffic deaths are inevitable; a part of life,” Nevada Office of Traffic Safety Administrator Traci Pearl explained. “But the majority of crashes are preventable by driving safely and attentively, by buckling up and not driving under the influence.”

“My brother Dylan, who was also my best friend, was killed a day after his 27th birthday by a drunk driver,” Nevadan Whitney Whisman said. “He is gone because someone chose to drink and drive.”

“This new goal has laid the groundwork,” Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Chuck Allen added. “Now, it is up to each and every Nevada motorist to drive safely and attentively and follow traffic laws each and every time. It could be the difference between saving a life and losing a life, and it’s in each driver’s hands.”

More information about driving safety is available at www.drivesafenv.com.

DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

- **Buckle up** – *Close to half of Nevadans who die in car crashes aren’t buckled up.*
- **Don’t drink and drive** – *574 people died in Nevada alcohol-related crashes in a recent five-year period.*
- **Don’t speed** – *A car traveling at 60 miles per hour travels 88 feet per second. Speed has a great impact on how much time drivers have to react to the road ahead.*
- **Drive safely near intersections/obey all traffic signals**– *467 people died in Nevada intersection crashes in a recent five-year period.*
- **Watch for pedestrians/cross roads cautiously**– *258 pedestrians lost their lives on Nevada roadways in a recent five-year period.*
- **Don’t let distractions take your eye from the road** – *Inattentive or fatigued driving can result in traffic injuries and deaths.*

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