

Brian Sandoval
Governor



James Wright
Director

November 25, 2013

Troy L. Abney
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

NHP and NDOT to Host News Conference to Highlight Safe Holiday Travel Messages and Emphasize the Zero Fatalities Initiative

The Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) are hosting a press conference on Tuesday, November 26th, to highlight safe driving tips and to provide information on our ongoing zero fatalities safety initiative. NDOT Deputy Director Bill Hoffman and NHP Deputy Chief Brian Sanchez will be the guest speakers from each agency.

Additionally, we will also have a resident of Sparks, Heather Flowers; provide a testimonial on how a seat belt saved her life when she was involved a previous motor vehicle accident.

With heavy traffic anticipated on the roadways and highways this four-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend, along with the end-of-the-year holiday season beginning Friday, we want to ensure that our highways and roadways remain as safe as possible and will be sharing several traffic safety and holiday travel tips to all motorists:

- If you are making a journey when inclement weather is anticipated, especially over any of the mountain passes, be sure to check the most recent highway conditions by dialing 511 or by clicking on www.nevadadot.com before driving
- Always wear a seat belt and be certain all vehicle occupants are properly restrained
- Children under 6 years of age and weighing under 60 pounds must be in an approved car seat
- It is prohibited to talk on a cell phone unless a driver is using hands-free technology; this includes reading non-voice communication. We are seeing more motorists violating this law by reading e-mails and texting messages while stopped or stalled in traffic or at a traffic signal.
- Beginning this Friday and through the end of the year, expect more motorists on the roadways as they make their holiday purchase
- In the Reno area, traffic on southbound IR-580 near the Kietzke Lane-South Virginia Street interchange can back up to the Moana Lane interchange—motorists should pay extra attention to slow moving or stalled traffic in this area

Page 1 of 2

- Plan to slow and stop safely at intersections when a traffic signal light cycles to yellow; we see more red light violations this time of year as motorists hurriedly rush to their next destination. A citation for running a red light in the Reno-Sparks area can cost over \$200 dollars along with 4 demerit points assessed on one's driver's license if convicted.
- Be certain the entire intersection is clear before traveling through on a green light. It is also against the law to block an intersection and this practice is seen more frequently during the busy holiday shopping period
- With the large number of holiday parties planned for December, please be responsible and designate a safe and sober driver if you plan to consume any amount of alcohol
- Drive safely and slowly in winter weather: ice and snow, take it slow

News conference details:

What: NHP and NDOT Pre-Holiday Safety Tips/Zero Fatalities Initiative Update

When: Tuesday, November 26th

Where: NHP Reno office

Address: 357 Hammill Lane, Reno, 89511

Time: 11:00 am

