



Nevada Highway Patrol

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Media Release

Joining Forces Distracted Driving Special Enforcement Issues High Number of Citations

The Nevada Highway Patrol led a combined agency joining forces special enforcement detail that targeted distracted drivers. On Friday April 18th 2014 the NHP along with the Reno Police Department, Sparks Police Department and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office joined forces at the intersection of South Virginia and South McCarran to enforce the distracted driving law.

During a 7 hour period the "Joining Forces" agencies made over 200 traffic stops with the emphasis of finding distracted drivers either on their cell phones while driving or using their cell phones while stopped at the intersection. Of the 205 total traffic stops made, 200 were for cell phone violations and 5 were for running a red light at the intersection.

Nevada's ban on handheld devices while driving went into effect Jan. 1, 2012, and two years into the law, law enforcement continues to spot and cite offenders every day. The law was enacted due to an alarming trend on our roads, with more than 3,500 distraction-related crashes every year in our state. April is "Distracted Driving" month, however law enforcement will continue to enforce the hands-free law throughout the year.

The likelihood of crashes dramatically rise when your actions require a combination of visual, manual and cognitive attention. Sending or receiving text messaging behind the wheel, the driver's eyes are off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, equivalent to driving the length of a football field at 65 miles per hours. Because of this, the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety urges everyone to focus on driving. More information about distracted driving, including facts and statistics, is available on the Zero Fatalities Nevada program website, www.ZeroFatalitiesNV.com/focus

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