



Nevada Highway Patrol

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Media Release

Serious Crashes Increase Around 4th of July Holiday *Nevada Law Enforcement Agencies Proactive in Battling Statistics*

Las Vegas, NV – Every year, the Independence Holiday brings an increase of alcohol consumption resulting in increased serious injuries and fatalities. In order to combat this, the Nevada Highway Patrol is working with various law enforcement agency partners through the *Joining Forces Program* to boost enforcement efforts to address impaired driving and riding offenses. Throughout the month of July, troopers will be looking for impaired motorists and motorcyclists in hopes to discourage the behavior and to send a strong message about the consequences that accompany drinking and driving.

“You can hand over your keys or your life. We want to encourage drivers to make the right choice because we don’t get second chances at life,” says Trooper Stuenkel with the Nevada Highway Patrol.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) reports that Nevada has seen an increase in fatalities of 4% compared to the same time last year. If the State mirrors the 2014 trend, approximately one-third of fatalities this year will involve alcohol.

To help achieve the State’s *Zero Fatalities* goal, Nevada drivers and riders are encouraged to use the following guidelines:

- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.
- Use you community’s sober ride programs
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact 911.
- If someone is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements.

Statistics and other related information are available online at <http://ZeroFatalitiesNV.com/sober>.

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