



Nevada Highway Patrol

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August 10, 2017

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Media Release

Troopers Jumps Over Center Median to Avoid Being Struck on I-15

On Saturday, August 5, 2017 at approximately 2:15 a.m., NHP Trooper Auer and Trooper Gagne were providing traffic control for a crash at the location of northbound IR15 at Spring Mtn. in the left travel lane. Trooper Gagne's vehicle was ahead of Trooper Auer's vehicle and both had their emergency lights activated. The troopers remained in the left lane of IR15 due to a disabled vehicle in the lane from the crash they were investigating. Trooper Auer walked southbound from his patrol vehicle and began lighting and placing flares out for traffic control.

A black Dodge Neon was traveling northbound on IR15 towards Trooper Auer traveling too fast for the raining and wet conditions. Trooper Auer observed the vehicle traveling towards him and vaulted over the center median of IR15 to avoid being struck. The driver of the Dodge applied heavy braking and the front of the Dodge struck the rear of Trooper Auer's unoccupied patrol vehicle. The impact pushed Trooper Auer's vehicle northbound towards Trooper Gagne's vehicle which he was occupying. Trooper Gagne heard the initial impact, placed his vehicle into drive and attempted to accelerate forward. Despite his efforts, the front of Trooper Auer's vehicle struck the rear of Trooper Gagne's. Trooper Auer and Gagne were both uninjured during the event. The driver and passenger of the Neon were transported to UMC trauma with non-life threatening injuries. This is an ongoing investigation and impairment is suspected.

Although gunfire continues to be a serious threat for law enforcement officer across the nation, auto-related injuries are still the number one cause of line of duty deaths. Law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, tow truck drivers, as well as several other first responders' jobs include working on or near busy roadways and we need the communities help to prevent further deaths and injuries to these first responders on our roadways in Nevada.

Below is information on Nevada's current "move over laws."

Drivers in Nevada have certain duties when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle making use of flashing lights.

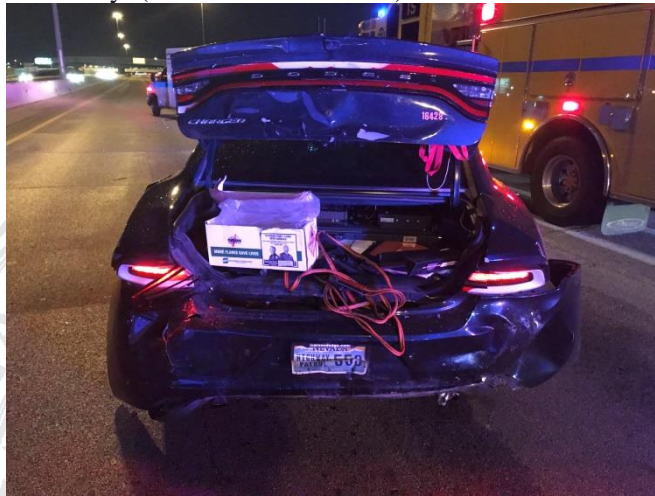
In the absence of direction by a peace officer, the driver of a vehicle approaching a stopped emergency vehicle must:

- Decrease the vehicle speed to a speed that is reasonable and proper and less than the posted speed limit.
- Proceed with caution.

- Be prepared to stop; and
- If possible, drive in a lane that is not adjacent to the lane in which the emergency vehicle is stopped unless the roadway, traffic, weather or other conditions make doing so unsafe or impossible.

These apply to all types of emergency vehicles including tow trucks and vehicles from the Nevada Department of Transportation displaying flashing amber lights. (NRS 484B.607, 2017 Assembly Bill 17)

Beginning October 1, 2017, the Move Over law will apply to any "traffic incident" including stalled vehicles and debris on the roadway. (2017 Senate Bill 312)



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