Brian Sandoval Governor



James Wright Director

Colonel Dennis Osborn Chief

Nevada Highway Patrol

555 Wright Ways Carson City, Nevada 89711 Telephone (775 687-5300) • Fax (775 684-4879)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17th – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 CONTACT: Lt. Kevin Larsen, <u>klarsen@dps.state.nv.us</u>, 775-689-4641

## Pedestrian Safety Efforts Launch in Advance of Back-to-School Season; Enforcement Aims to Continue Downward Trend in Fatalities

Pedestrian Safety Urged by Nevada Highway Patrol as 2015 – 2016 School Year Begins

With the 2015 - 2016 school session set to begin statewide, the Nevada Highway Patrol is working diligently to urge motorists to be pedestrian aware and share the streets responsibly. In an effort to continue the downward trend in pedestrian fatalities, agencies aligned with *Joining Forces* will focus on enforcing pedestrian safety guidelines, beginning Monday, Aug. 17.

Hundreds of Nevadans have lost their lives over the years and according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatalities Analysis Reporting System (FARS), there have been 29 pedestrian fatalities in Nevada thus far in 2015. Last year, 69 pedestrians lost their lives on Nevada roads. State and local law enforcements agencies are working to decrease that number with the launch of new pedestrian safety laws, which include: established safety zones in areas determined to be dangerous for pedestrians, the requirement of vehicles making a permissive turn on a green light to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crosswalk and finally, the prohibiting of U-turns in an active school zone.

Motorists should take extra care between the morning hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. before and after school sessions as well as 8 p.m. to dawn, as visibility is decreased during this time and the majority of pedestrian-related fatalities occur. Motorists should not be distracted, make eye contact, share the road and watch for pedestrians.

For resources and safety tips for both drivers and pedestrians, please visit <u>http://www.zerofatalitiesnv.com/be-pedestrian-safe</u>.

For more information on *Joining Forces* and other statewide traffic safety programs, please visit <u>http://www.zerofatalitiesnv.com</u>. Follow Zero Fatalities Nevada on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>YouTube</u> and @ZeroFatalitiesNV on <u>Instagram</u>.

