

# NEVADA

## Driver's Handbook



January 2014



# NEVADA DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
555 Wright Way  
Carson City, Nevada 89711-0400

This handbook has been written in an informal style for easy reading. As you read, you will find information on the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes you need to drive safely.

You will also find general licensing requirements, some basic traffic laws, explanations of signs and signals, material on driving under the influence and defensive driving tips. The knowledge test for your Nevada license is based on the information in this manual.

However, this handbook does not give the exact wording of traffic laws and it does not discuss all of them. For specific laws, please refer to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). NRS copies are available in the public libraries and online at [leg.state.nv.us](http://leg.state.nv.us).



## Key Changes in This Edition

- **Page 7 - Updated the "Documents You Will Need" section**
- **Page 8 – Added section regarding Driver Authorization Card**
- **Page 17 – Added Veteran Designation**
- **Page 19 – Updated Fees**
- **Added 8-year license and ID card expiration and implementation dates throughout Chapter 1**
- **Overall grammar and formatting update**

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# 1

## GETTING YOUR NEVADA DRIVER'S LICENSE

This chapter explains what is necessary to obtain a Nevada driver's license, the tests you are required to take, the DMV's license classification system and other general information about Nevada's requirements.

You need a Nevada driver's license if you live or work in Nevada (with the exception of border state employees) and want to drive on Nevada streets and highways. Drivers moving into Nevada from another state must apply for a license within 30 days after becoming a resident.

To get a Nevada license, you will need to complete an application form and visit your local full-service DMV office. You must also be at least 16 years old and provide proof of your full legal name, age and Social Security Number if one has been issued to you. A Social Security number is not necessary to obtain a Driver Authorization Card (DAC).

An initial issuance Nevada driver's license is valid for eight years and expires on your birthday unless immigration documents are presented as evidence of your name and date of birth. If immigration documents are used, the expiration of your driver's license will coincide with the departure date on your immigration documents, or one year if no date is provided on your immigration documents. At no time will a driver's license or identification card be valid for more than eight years. (NRS 483.290)

**January 1, 2014** – Individuals born during an odd-numbered year will receive a four year license upon renewal prior to January 1, 2018. Individuals born during an even-numbered year will receive an eight year license upon their next renewal. All new licenses will be issued with an eight year expiration date.

**January 1, 2018** – All individuals will be issued a license with an eight year expiration date.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent who has custody, a legal guardian or other person authorized by NRS 483.300 must co-sign your application. The co-signer shares liability for any damages caused by the minor's negligence or willful misconduct while driving.



## New Nevada Residents

A resident of Nevada can have only one driver's license. If you have a license or identification card from another state, you must surrender it to get a license to drive here.

Your vision will be tested when you apply for your Nevada driver's license. All other tests may be waived if all of these criteria apply:

- You have had fewer than 3 moving violations in the past 4 years, and have not had your license suspended, revoked or cancelled.
- You have had no DUI convictions within the past 7 years.
- You have no restrictions to your driving privilege that may require re-evaluation.
- You have a valid license from another state of the same license class for which you are applying in Nevada.
- You are age 21 or older.

You do not need a Nevada license if you are:

- An active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces and you have a valid license from your home state.
- A non-resident, such as an out-of-state student, tourist or seasonal resident. But, if you want to drive in Nevada, you must be at least 16 years old, have a valid license from your home state and comply with Nevada traffic and financial responsibility laws.

Note: All driver records are checked through the national Problem Driver Pointer System and the Commercial Driver's License Information System. If your driving privilege is currently suspended, revoked, cancelled or denied in another state, you will not be allowed a Nevada license until the out-of-state issue is resolved. You may qualify for an identification card during this period.

See Chapter 11 on vehicle registration for information on obtaining your Nevada license plates.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about documents you need to bring when you apply, please visit the Department of Motor Vehicles' website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).

You may also contact us at one of the following phone numbers:

Reno/Sparks/Carson City (775) 684-4DMV  
Las Vegas Area (702) 486-4DMV  
Rural Nevada (877) 368-7828

# Documents You Will Need

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## Evidence of Full Legal Name and Date of Birth

If you were born within the United States, you must present one of the following:

- State-issued birth certificate (original or certified copy)
- A valid, unexpired United States passport or United States passport card
- Nevada Department of Corrections Identification Card

If your name is different from what is presented on one of the above documents, you will be asked to present legal documentation reflecting your name change. This may include of a marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption records or court order. Documents must be originals or certified copies.

If you were born outside of the United States, you must present the original or a certified copy of one of the following:

- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Unexpired Permanent Resident Card
- Unexpired Temporary Resident Card
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Valid, unexpired U.S. Passport or Passport Card
- Resident Alien Card or I-551 Receipt
- Valid, unexpired Foreign Passport stamped “Processed for I-551”
- Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) with Visa or Passport
- Permit to Reenter the U.S.
- Refugee Travel Documents
- Unexpired Employment Authorization document

The following is a list of documents not accepted as proof of name and age:

- Hospital-issued birth certificates
- Driver’s license or identification card from other U.S. states, U.S. Territories or foreign countries
- Foreign birth certificates
- Border crossing cards
- Consular identification cards

## Evidence of Social Security Number

You must present one of the following to obtain a driver’s license or identification card. All documents must be originals.

- Social Security Card
- W-2
- IRS Form 1099
- IRS Form 1099A
- Paystub with Social Security number listed

Alternative documents accepted as evidence of name, age and Social Security number may be approved by the Department and will require supervisory approval.

# Driver Authorization Card (DAC)

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A Driver Authorization Card is valid for one year from the issue date and must be carried with you at all times while operating a motor vehicle. All renewals and address changes must be completed in person.

## Documents You Will Need

To obtain a Driver Authorization Card, you must provide any one of the documents listed in the “Documents You Will Need” section on page 7,

OR one of the following documents:

- A Military Identification Card
- A Military Dependent Identification Card
- A DD Form 214 – “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty”
- U.S. Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood

OR two of the following documents:

- A driver’s license or identification card issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or any territory of the United States
- A driver authorization card issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or any other territory of the United States
- A passport issued by a foreign government
- A birth certificate issued by a foreign government
- A consular identification card
- Any document issued by a foreign government that the Department determines is substantially similar to a consular identification card

## Documents in a Foreign Language

Any document in a language other than English must be properly translated to English before it can be accepted. Any document translated from a foreign language to English is required to include all of the following:

- A typed or electronically printed translation which is signed by a translator approved by the Department
- The full and complete translation of the entire document
- No abstract translations will be accepted
- A typed or electronically printed statement conveying:

“I, [insert translator’s full legal name], certify that the foregoing is a complete and accurate translation from [insert foreign language] to the English language to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am fully competent to translate from [insert foreign language] into the English language and that I am proficient in both languages.

DMV Approved Translator Number: \_\_\_\_\_”



## Documents Proving Residency Status

Every applicant must prove his or her residency in this state by displaying an original or certified copy of any two of the following documents.

Each document must show the applicant's Nevada residence address:

- A receipt from the rent or lease of a residence
- A lease of a residence on which the applicant appears as the lessee during a lease term which includes the previous 60 days
- A record from a public utility which is dated within the previous 60 days
- A bank or credit card statement dated within the previous 60 days
- A stub from an employment check indicating a residential address
- A document from a state or federal court which is dated within the previous 60 days
- A document issued by an insurance company or its agent, including, without limitation, an insurance card, binder or bill
- A record, receipt or bill from a medical provider
- Tax records for the individual which show a physical residence
- A statement or bill requesting payment
- A record of property taxes assessed or paid in this state
- A deed of trust or other documentation of a mortgage
- Enrollment records or an identification card from an educational institution in this state
- A receipt from a hotel, motel, recreational vehicle park or campground located in this state indicating not fewer than 30 days of consecutive residency in this state
- A voter registration card issued by the Nevada Secretary of State
- Documentation of receipt of public assistance from this state
- A military Leave and Earnings Statement indicating Nevada residency when deployed out of state
- Notarized statement from the owner of a residence indicating that the applicant physically resides at the residence
- Documentation indicating that the applicant is enrolled in the Nevada Confidential Address Program (NRS 217.462 to 217.471)
- Department-approved form for Nevada residency (DMV 005)

A driver authorization card is not valid for federal or state identification purposes and cannot be used to determine eligibility for any benefits, licenses or services issued or provided by the state.

Information used to obtain a driver authorization card will not be released or used to determine legal presence or immigration status.

A driver authorization card cannot be used to apply for or obtain a commercial driver's license. All rules and regulations pertaining to a license or instruction permit also pertain to a driver authorization card, except as otherwise provided in this handbook.

# T

## esting

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To drive safely, you need good eyesight and coordination, a sound knowledge and understanding of Nevada's traffic laws, understanding of road signs, common sense and skill in handling your vehicle in any given situation.

### Vision Testing

Your vision will be checked to make sure you meet the minimum vision standards. If you need glasses or contact lenses to drive, a restriction will be placed on your driver's license.

### Knowledge Testing

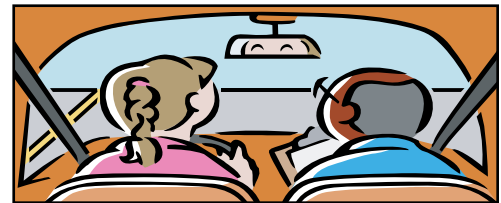
Your understanding of highway signs and markings, traffic laws and safe driving practices will be tested. This is done using either the automated testing equipment or with a paper test. If you have problems reading or understanding the written test, you may request an oral examination. Testing for the Basic C license and motorcycle license is also available in Spanish.

A \$25.00 fee is charged for all initial knowledge and/or skills tests administered. A \$10 fee is charged for any retests needed before you can get your license.

### Skills Testing

Your ability to drive your vehicle safely in a variety of traffic situations will be tested. When you come in for your road test, the driver's license examiner will check the following:

- Vehicle registration and license plates
- Evidence of insurance card
- Headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals
- Horn
- Seat belts
- Tires
- Windshield wipers



The vehicle must be in safe operating condition and all equipment must be in good working order, including your brakes, speedometer and muffler. The vehicle should also have a safe and clean seating area beside the driver for the examiner.

Passengers and animals are not allowed in the vehicle during the road test.

You will be tested on such things as preparing to drive, vehicle control, entering traffic, lane use, speed control, turns, parallel/angle parking, backing up, stopping, passing and attention to traffic situations. You may be requested to demonstrate stopping on a grade. You will not be asked to violate any traffic laws, and you will be penalized if you do.

A \$25.00 fee is charged for all initial knowledge and/or skills tests administered. A \$10 fee is charged for any retests needed before you can get your license.

**Use of a cellular phone during a drive test will result in automatic failure.**

# Young Drivers

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If you are under 18 years of age and applying for a Nevada driver's license, driver authorization card or instruction permit, a parent or guardian must co-sign your application. You will need to sign an affidavit stating that you understand the following:

Your license may be:

- Suspended for 90 days if a blood, breath or urine test indicates at least 0.02% but less than 0.08% by weight of alcohol in your blood
- Revoked for 90 days for any court finding of driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance
- Suspended or issuance delayed for up to two years for:
  - Placing graffiti on or defacing public or private property
  - Any criminal activity involving alcohol or a controlled substance
  - Using, possessing, selling or distributing a controlled substance
  - Purchasing, consuming or possessing an alcoholic beverage
- Suspended or issuance delayed for up to one year for handling or possessing a firearm or having a firearm under your control in violation of NRS 202.300. For a second offense, your license will be suspended or issuance delayed for two years.
- Suspended for 30 days to 6 months or issuance delayed for 30 days if found to be in need of supervision because of habitual truancy. For a second offense, your license will be suspended for 60 days to 1 year or issuance of your license will be delayed for 60 days.
- Suspended for a period of not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years if found guilty of participating in or organizing an unauthorized speed contest on a public highway.

When you apply for a driver's license or driver authorization card, you will be required to present a Certificate of Completion of a course in driver's education and a Beginning Driver Experience Log, DMV Form DLD-130. The dates and times of your behind-the-wheel experiences should be noted in this log as they occur. This log must be completed in blue or black ink before arriving for your drive test. You may obtain the log on the DMV website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).

Nevada teens are required to complete 50 hours of supervised experience behind the wheel, 10 of which must be completed at night. You must document this on the official DMV form. Please refer to Chapter 4 of this handbook for information about driving at night.

There are three options for meeting your driver's education requirements:

1. Take driver's education at any locally offered and DMV-approved school
2. Take driver's education online with a DMV-approved school
3. If you are not within 30 miles of a DMV-approved school and it is not possible for you to access the internet for a driver's education class, you need to complete 100 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, 10 hours of which must be completed in the dark. If you are applying for a motorcycle license, all 100 hours of driving experience must be completed during daylight hours only. Please refer to Chapter 4 of this handbook for information about night driving.



Minors must also remain free of any at-fault accidents, moving violation convictions and any type of alcohol or drug conviction for six months prior to receiving a driver's license.

## Instruction Permits

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A Nevada instruction permit is valid for one year. You must carry the permit with you when you are driving. To obtain an instruction permit, you must:

- Be at least 15½ years old
- Complete a driver's license application
- Pass a vision test
- Pass a knowledge test about Nevada's traffic laws, highway signs, markings and safe driving practices
- Have a parent or guardian available to authorize issuance

**The following restrictions apply:**

### **Class C Instruction Permit (Passenger Car/Pickup Truck)**

When you are driving, you must be accompanied by a licensed driver who:

- Is 21 years of age or older;
- Has at least one year of licensed driving experience; and
- Is seated beside you.

### **Class M or M-Z Instruction Permit (Motorcycle or Moped)**

You must be in direct visual supervision of a licensed motorcycle driver on a motorcycle who is 21 years of age or older and has at least one year of driving experience. The supervising driver is not allowed to be in a car or truck during the direct supervision of a permitted motorcycle driver. You must:

- Drive in daylight hours only
- Carry no passengers
- Not drive on limited access highways or freeways

## Instruction Permit Requirements

If you are under the age of 18, you must hold an instruction permit for at least 6 months prior to applying for a driver's license.

## Passenger Restrictions and Curfews

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Applicants who are 16 or 17 years old when they receive their driver's license will not be allowed to carry passengers under the age of 18 (except for immediate family members) for the first 6 months they drive (NRS 483.2523).

Additionally, a minor shall not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless he/she is driving to or from a scheduled event. This curfew remains in effect until the driver turns 18, regardless of when the driver's license was issued.

# Driver's License Classifications

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Vision and knowledge tests are required for all license classifications. A road test may also be required in the specific type of vehicle you want to be licensed to drive. For example, if you have a Class C license and also want to be able to drive a motorcycle, you need to pass a written test on motorcycle laws and practices and a drive test on operating your motorcycle.

You may only operate a moped if you have a Nevada driver's license (any classification) or you may apply for a license that will allow you to operate a moped only.

Note: Commercial drivers must pass additional knowledge and skills tests. Please refer to the *Commercial Driver's License Handbook*.

## **Class A – Combination vehicles – Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) over 26,000 pounds, trailer over 10,000 pounds**



## **Class B – Single vehicle – Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) over 26,000 pounds; may tow a vehicle under 10,000 pounds**



## **Class C – Cars, vans, pickups; may tow a vehicle 10,000 pounds or less Combination of vehicles may not exceed 70 feet**



## **Class M – Motorcycle or moped**



# Restrictions

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Your driver's license may have certain restrictions on it if necessary for you to drive safely. The most common restrictions are:

- Restriction B — Driver needs to wear glasses or contact lenses
- Restriction F — Additional rearview mirrors
- Restriction G — Daylight driving only
- Restriction 6 — Yearly vision examination
- Restriction 7 — Yearly medical letter
- Restriction 8 — Yearly driving test
- Restriction JN — Instruction Permit

# Endorsements

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An endorsement allows you to drive a specific type of vehicle which requires more driving skill than the typical vehicle. Various commercial and non-commercial vehicle endorsements may be needed, depending on the type of vehicle you want to drive. Additional tests are necessary for these endorsements.

An M endorsement may be needed for driving a motorcycle. See the section entitled “Motorcycle Instruction Permit and License” for more information.

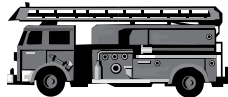
Here are some endorsements you may need:

## J – Class C vehicle; may tow vehicle(s) over 10,000 pounds GVWR



In Class C vehicle, may tow a vehicle (GVWR) or a combination of vehicles (GCWR) of more than 10,000 pounds. The combination of vehicles may not exceed 70 feet in length or have a combined weight rating or a combined weight that exceeds 26,000 lbs. If the combination of the towing vehicle and the towed vehicle(s) exceed 26,000 lbs., a Class A license is required.

## F – Commercial License exemption for:



- Firefighters while operating fire equipment
- Farmers — employees or family members while transporting supplies within 150 miles to and from the farm, if not:
  - Employed as a common or contract motor carrier, or
  - Transporting placarded amounts of hazardous materials
- Military — if driving military vehicles on active military duty

## G – Autonomous Vehicle

An autonomous vehicle is defined as a vehicle that uses artificial intelligence, sensors, and global positioning system (GPS) coordinates to drive itself without the active intervention of a human operator. The holder of a Class A, Class B, or Class C license may operate an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode only if the holder has a G endorsement on his or her license.

# Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)

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Drivers of commercial motor vehicles have to meet strict licensing requirements and pass additional knowledge and skills tests.

A commercial motor vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle has a GVWR or GCWR of 26,001 pounds or more, is designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or is carrying hazardous materials.

For more information about Nevada’s CDL program and licensing requirements, please refer to the Commercial Driver’s License Handbook. Specially trained CDL staff are available to assist you in Field Services offices statewide and in DMV CDL testing centers in Las Vegas, Sparks and Elko.



# Motorcycle Instruction Permit and License

A motorcycle instruction permit is valid for one year. It allows you to practice driving when you are accompanied by and in direct visual supervision of a licensed driver who:

- Has a valid motorcycle license;
- Is at least 21 years old;
- Has at least one year of driving experience; and
- Is also riding on a motorcycle at the time of supervision.



NOTE: The licensed driver supervising you while on a motorcycle may not be in a car or truck during the supervision.

If you want an instruction permit for driving a motorcycle, you must:

- Be at least 15½ years old;
- Pass a vision test;
- Pass a general driver's license knowledge test; and
- Pass the motorcycle knowledge test.

Passing an approved motorcycle safety course may be substituted for the motorcycle tests.

For more information on these courses, please call the Nevada Motorcycle Safety Program at 1-800-889-8779 or visit its website at [www.nevadarider.com](http://www.nevadarider.com).

When driving with a motorcycle instruction permit, you may drive during daylight hours only. You may not carry passengers or drive on freeways or other high-speed roadways.

If you want a Nevada motorcycle driver's license, you must (per NRS 486.071 and NRS 486.131):

- Be at least 16 years old;
- Pass a vision test;
- Pass a general driver's license knowledge test;
- Pass a motorcycle knowledge test; and
- Pass the Motorcycle Operators Skills Test (MOST).

The motorcycle drive test includes a pre-trip inspection. You need to know and understand your motorcycle's controls and equipment, such as the choke, gear-shift, brakes, spark arrester, starter, throttle, ignition and clutch.

The examiner will also check the turn signals and horn. Your drive test will include normal starts and stops, quick stops, turns and other maneuvers. When driving your motorcycle, you are required to wear a helmet. If your motorcycle does not have a windshield or screen, you should wear a protective face shield or goggles.

**Note: If you are surrendering a valid motorcycle license or a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement from another state, the road test may be waived.**

Motorcycle handbooks are available at all DMV locations and on the website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).



# Renewals

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The expiration date is on the front of your driver's license. Although a renewal notice is mailed to the address on file, it is your responsibility to renew on or before your expiration date.

You may be required to pass a vision test, a knowledge test and an on-road driving skills test. Renewal testing is used to re-evaluate driving knowledge, skills and abilities and to determine appropriate restrictions.

Nevada does not automatically extend the license expiration date for military personnel. Active duty military personnel who are temporarily out-of-state may renew a Nevada license through the mail. Military personnel who hold a "Valid Without Photo" 8 year license may renew their license by mail one time during a 16-year period.

## Change of Address or Name

Under Nevada law, you are required to notify the DMV of any address or name change within 30 days.

### Address Changes

When you need to change the address on your driver's license or identification card, you may do so online at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com), by going to your local DMV office or through the mail. Address changes must be completed in person if you hold a commercial driver's license or driver authorization card.

If you choose to request an address change by mail, you can download the Change of Address Application (DMV-22) from the website, have the form faxed to you through the DMV automated Fax On Demand service or contact the DMV Phone Room and have a form mailed to you.

Telephone numbers:

Las Vegas Area (702) 486-4368

Reno/Sparks/Carson City (775) 684-4368

Rural Nevada/Out-of-state (877) 368-7828 toll free

Choose Option 1 for fax on demand or Option 6 for the phone room.

### Name Changes

Name changes on a driver's license or identification card must be made in person at a local DMV office. You will be asked to complete an application and provide acceptable legal documentation reflecting your name change.

# Restricted License

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"Restricted" licenses may be issued under special circumstances to:

- Drivers who are 14 or older and have demonstrated family hardship or who need to drive to and from school
- Individuals who have served required suspension or revocation periods

Additional information and applications are available at your local DMV office.



## Duplicate License

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If you lose your driver's license, or it is ruined or stolen, you need to apply for a duplicate immediately. You may apply online, at a kiosk or in person at the DMV. When you go to the DMV, it is best to bring as much identification documentation as possible. This will help confirm your identity and speed up the process. The DMV may use your existing record and photograph currently on file when necessary. See the "Documents You Will Need" section in this chapter for more information.

## Identification Cards

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A Nevada identification card is valid for eight years and expires on your birthday unless immigration documents are presented as evidence of name and date of birth. If immigration documents are used, the expiration will coincide with your departure date or one year from issuance if no date is listed. If you want a Nevada identification card, you must:

- Be at least 10 years old;
- Complete an application; and
- Present the proof of identity as outlined under "Documents You Will Need" in this chapter.

**Note: Issuance of an identification card will automatically surrender your driving privileges or an identification card issued from another state whether or not the card is in your possession. This does not apply if you are a Seasonal Resident identification card applicant.**

If you are cited for a traffic violation while holding a Nevada identification card, citations and demerits will be applied to "future driving privileges" and the same rules and penalties will apply to you as apply to driver's license holders. If you receive 12 or more demerits in a 12 month period, you will be required to reinstate your driving privileges before you are eligible to receive a driver's license.

You may apply for a duplicate identification card online, at a kiosk or in person at the DMV. If you need to update information on your identification card, please contact your local DMV office at one of the numbers listed in Chapter 12 of this handbook.

**January 1, 2014** – Individuals born during an odd-numbered year will receive a four year identification card upon renewal prior to January 1, 2018. Individuals born during an even-numbered year will receive an eight year card upon their next renewal. All new identification cards will be issued with an eight year expiration date.

**January 1, 2018** – All individuals will be issued an identification card with an eight year expiration date.

## Veteran Designation

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When applying for your initial or a renewal license or identification card, you have the opportunity to declare yourself as a veteran of the United States Armed Forces if honorably discharged.

To make this declaration, bring a copy of your DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" issued by the United States Department of Defense to certify an honorable discharge to the DMV when you come in for your license. You will also be asked to sign a written release authorizing the Department to provide personal information to the Nevada Office of Veterans Services.

# Organ Donors

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The Department of Motor Vehicles and the University of Nevada School of Medicine work together to give applicants for driver's licenses, driver authorization cards and identification cards the opportunity to become organ donors or to make a monetary donation to the Gift of Life Fund.



You have the option of having "Organ Donor" listed on your driver's license, driver authorization card or ID card when it is first issued or upon renewal. Donors should also obtain a card that specifies their desires in accordance with the federal Uniform Anatomical Gift Act.

A family member of the donor who is a medically suitable recipient and resides in Nevada will receive the anatomical gift directly. If there is no suitable family member, the gift will be passed to the appropriate organ donor bank or organization.

Minors wishing to be organ donors may have a parent or guardian sign an affidavit on the DMV-002 application that says the parent or guardian understands they cannot amend or revoke the donation of an organ if the minor passes away. Please refer to the passage of Assembly Bill 144 during the 2013 Legislative Session.

When you agree to become an organ donor, the DMV will ask whether you wish to donate \$1 or more to the state's Anatomical Gift Account. The funds are forwarded to the University of Nevada School of Medicine for educational programs on the importance of organ and tissue donation. If enough money is donated, the account can also provide financial assistance to those in need of a transplant.

The DMV accepts donations during the licensing process and through the purchase of Organ Donor license plates. You can also donate directly through the School of Medicine.



# Fees

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Driver's license and identification card fees will be charged according to established Nevada state law. Fees are subject to change. Current fees are available on the DMV website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).

## Driver's License and Driver Authorization Card Fees

### Under Age 65

Original license .....	\$41.25
Instruction permit.....	\$41.25
Renewal (8 year) .....	\$41.25
Renewal (4 year) .....	\$22.25
Driver Authorization Card (original and renewal).....	\$22.25
Duplicate license or authorization card .....	\$17.25

### Age 65 and older

Original, duplicate or renewal .....	\$17.25
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### Testing

Initial Knowledge and Skills Test.....	\$25.00
Each Retest .....	\$10.00

### Changes

Change of address only.....	\$3.25
Change of information (other than address) .....	\$8.25

### Penalties and Reinstatements

Reinstatement fee for alcohol or controlled substance related offense .....	\$120.00
Victim fee for alcohol or controlled substance related offense .....	\$35.00
Reinstatement fee for any other offense.....	\$75.00

## Identification Card Fees

### Age 10-17

Original .....	\$9.25
Renewal or duplicate (8 year) .....	\$9.25
Renewal or duplicate (4 year) .....	\$6.25

### Age 18-64

Original .....	\$21.25
Renewal or duplicate (8 year) .....	\$21.25
Renewal or duplicate (4 year) .....	\$12.25

### Age 65 or Older

Original or duplicate .....	\$7.25
Renewal.....	\$3.25

### Changes

Change of address only.....	\$3.25
Change of information (other than address) .....	\$7.25

## Commercial Driver's License Fees

Original or transfer that requires knowledge and skills tests .....	\$141.25
Original or transfer that requires knowledge tests only.....	\$111.25
Instruction permit.....	\$111.25
Added endorsement .....	\$17.25
Driving skills test to add or remove a restriction or endorsement.....	\$30.00
Renewal that requires knowledge tests only (4 year) .....	\$57.25
Renewal that requires knowledge tests only (8 year) .....	\$111.25
Renewal that requires knowledge and skills tests (4 year).....	\$87.25
Renewal that requires knowledge and skills tests (8 year).....	\$141.25
Duplicate .....	\$22.25
Change of address only.....	\$3.25
Change of information (other than address) .....	\$12.25

**Any license suspension, revocation or cancellation requires payment of the reinstatement fee, the fee for an original license and any applicable testing fees.  
Reinstatement of a CDL requires payment of a non-CDL reinstatement fee.**

**zero**<sup>®</sup>  
**Fatalities**  

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*Drive Safe Nevada*

*zerofatalitiesnv.com*

# 2

## BUCKLE UP

Seat belts are your best protection against injury or death if you are in a vehicle crash. In 2005, more than 25% of highway fatalities in Nevada were people who were NOT wearing their seat belts. This is a 17% reduction from 2002 statistics.

In Nevada, seat belts aren't just a good idea – they are the law.

- If your car is a 1968 model or newer, it must have lap-type seat belts for passengers in the front seat.
- If it is a 1970 model or newer, it must have lap-type seat belts for each passenger of the vehicle. It must also have shoulder harnesses for use in the front seat.
- The driver and any passengers age 6 and older must wear safety belts if the vehicle is equipped with them.
- Children under age 6 and those who weigh less than 60 pounds must be in an approved child restraint system (NRS 484B.157). Failure to restrain children under age 6 and those weighing less than 60 pounds may result in fines, community service and or the suspension of your driver's license.
- Never hold a child on your lap or buckle yourself and a child into a single safety belt, and never buckle two children into a single safety belt.

### Unattended Children and Pets

Never leave a child age 7 or younger unattended in a vehicle if the conditions present a significant risk to the health and safety of that child unless the child is being supervised by and is within sight of a person at least 12 years old. (NRS 202.575)

It is illegal to leave a dog or cat unattended in a vehicle during periods of extreme heat or cold. Law enforcement, firefighters and other officials may use reasonable force to rescue the animal. (NRS 574.195)

Violations of these laws are misdemeanor offenses.

# T

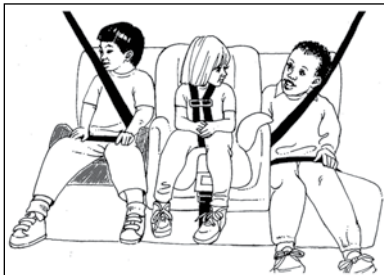
## Traveling with Babies and Children

Booster seats and belt-positioning seats are designed to elevate or position a child so as to allow them to be safely secured with a seat belt. If you are traveling with children, ask yourself:

- Is your child restraint system approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards?
- Is your seat appropriate for the size and weight of the child?
- Has the seat been installed safely, securely and in accordance with the installation instructions provided by the manufacturer or in another manner approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration?

### Always buckle up infants facing the rear of the car.

Babies must not ride facing forward until they are 1 year old and weigh at least 20 pounds. The rear-facing safety seat supports a baby's head, protecting the neck and spine from injury in most crashes.

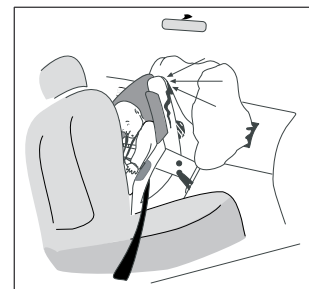


### Teach children to ride buckled up in the back seat.

The back seat generally is the safest place in the car. Older children may ride in the front if necessary, but the vehicle seat should be moved back as far as possible. To protect the head from contact with a rapidly inflating airbag, use a child restraint with a complete harness system or a properly fitted vehicle shoulder/lap belt. Passengers who are not buckled up or who sit too close to airbags can suffer serious injuries, even in a minor collision or a sudden stop.

### Never put an infant in the front seat if the car has a passenger side airbag.

In a crash, the airbag explodes from the dashboard at 200 mph, smashing through the safety seat into the back of the baby's head. Safe driving depends on you, your skill, your knowledge, your abilities and your attitude.



# 3

## DRIVING SAFELY

### Getting Ready to Drive

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#### Before you start the engine

- Adjust the driver's seat so you can reach the controls comfortably and can see.
- Make sure the windshield and windows are clean.
- Buckle up! And make sure your passengers do, too.
- Check your attitude. Are you calm and in control of yourself?
- Check the rear and side mirrors and make sure they are properly adjusted.

#### When you turn on the engine

- Check fuel level and warning lights.
- Adjust the volume on your stereo system. Can you hear normal traffic sounds? If not, reduce the volume so you can hear them.
- If needed, turn on headlights, turn signal and windshield wipers.

#### Before you move your vehicle

- Stop, look and listen for traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians.

### Cell Phones and Texting

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The use of a cellular phone or other handheld wireless communications device to engage voice communications is prohibited unless the device is used with a hands-free accessory.

The use of a cellular phone or other handheld wireless communications device to manually send, read, search the Internet, or engage in non-voice communications with another person, including texting, electronic messaging and instant messaging is prohibited.

You may use the device to report an emergency if stopping the vehicle would be inadvisable, impractical or dangerous.



# The Rules of the Road

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The rules of the road are the traffic laws and driving practices that mean safe driving for all of us. These rules include:

- Signs, signals and highway markings
- Right of way
- Controlling speed
- Freeway driving
- Stopping
- Signaling, turning, lane changes and passing
- Parking

Signs, signals and highway markings are used alone and in combination to control traffic and make safe driving easier.

## Signs, Signals and Markings

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### Signs

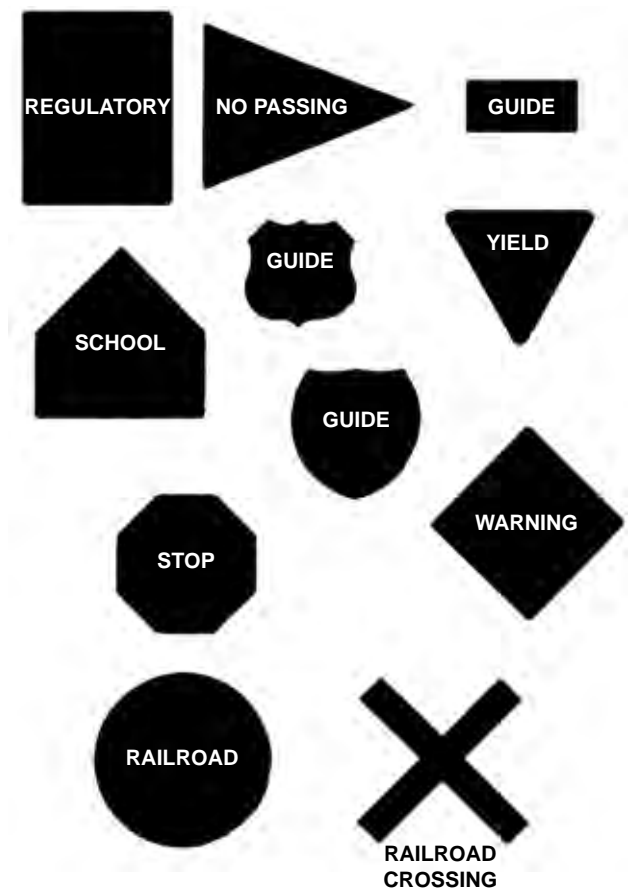
Signs have three purposes: they regulate, warn and inform. The shapes and colors of highway signs have special meanings. This helps you understand the message quickly.

Standard colors:

- *Red* — no, do not or stop
- *Green* — direction or guidance
- *Yellow or yellow green* — general warning
- *White* — regulatory, law or rule
- *Orange* — road construction or repair warning
- *Blue* — driver services, such as food and lodging
- *Brown* — recreation and scenic area information

Standard shapes:

- *Octagon (8 sides)* — STOP
- *Diamond* — warning
- *Rectangle* — traffic regulations or directions to drivers
- *Inverted triangle* — yield right of way
- *Pennant* — no passing
- *Pentagon (5 sides)* — school zones and school crossings
- *Circle* — railroad crossing ahead
- *Crossbuck (X)* — actual railroad crossing
- *Shield* — route marker





**Stop signs** mean you must:

- Come to a full stop behind the stop sign at the crosswalk or stop line. If your view of the cross street is blocked, slowly move forward to determine when it is safe to proceed.
- If no signs or markings exist, you must slow down and stop, if necessary, at the point nearest the intersection where you have a view of approaching traffic on the through highway.
- Give right of way to pedestrians and to any cross traffic before moving forward.



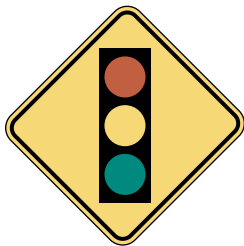
At a 4-way stop, you must wait for vehicles within the intersection and for those who reach the intersection before you do to go first. Wait your turn!



**Yield signs** mean the same as stop signs except you may proceed without coming to a full stop if it is safe to do so. You must:

- Slow down as you come to the intersection.
- Give the right of way to pedestrians and through traffic.

**Regulatory signs** are rectangular and have a white background. They inform you of traffic laws and regulations. You must obey these signs.



**Warning signs** are yellow, diamond-shaped, with black letters and symbols. They tell you there are special conditions or hazards ahead.



**Railroad crossing signs** warn you that you need to slow down and may have to stop for a train. The crossbuck (X) marks the actual location of the train tracks. You should look both ways when approaching the crossing and always stay clear of the tracks when a train is approaching.



**Route signs and markers** are usually shaped like a shield, but there are different shapes and colors. These signs show U.S., Interstate and state route numbers.

**Construction and maintenance signs** are used to notify drivers of possible danger in or near work areas. Most signs used in highway and street work areas are diamond-shaped. Cones, drums and barricades are used to alert you and to guide you safely through work areas. For night work, they may be equipped with warning lights. When used, you must slow down and follow the direction of the posted signs and any construction flaggers who may be present.



**Violations in construction and maintenance zones result in increased traffic fines.**

## Signals

Traffic signals control traffic at intersections. Combinations of traffic and pedestrian signals, signs, pavement markings and other traffic control devices may be used in some situations.

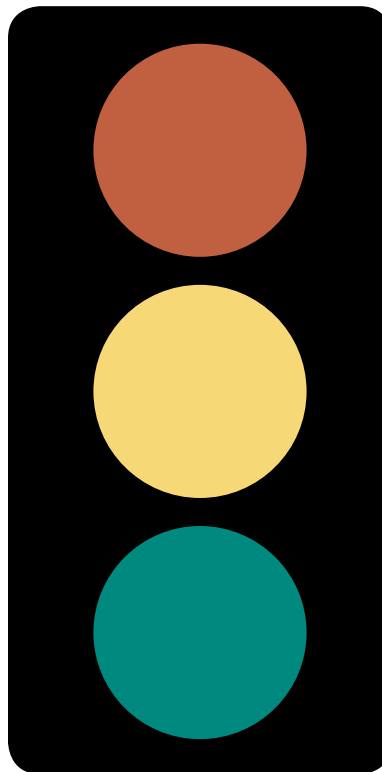
**When traffic control lights are not working, you must come to a full stop before proceeding through the intersection. After yielding to pedestrians and other vehicles that have already stopped or are in the intersection, you may proceed with caution.**

*A red light means STOP.* You must come to a complete stop before you reach the intersection. Stop your vehicle behind the crosswalk or stop line. If there is not a stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection. Remain stopped until the light turns green. Where not prohibited by signs, a right turn may be made on a red light after coming to a complete stop. Signal for a right turn, then turn when motor and pedestrian traffic is clear and it is safe to proceed.

*A yellow light means CAUTION.* A steady yellow light is a warning that the light will be turning red. If you have not entered the intersection, you must stop. If you are already in the intersection, you should continue moving and clear it safely. DO NOT speed up to “beat the light.”

*A green light means GO.* You may proceed through an intersection in the direction indicated by the signal if the road is clear. Make sure you look right and left for oncoming traffic.

- A *flashing red light* means that you must come to a full stop. You may go only when the road is clear and you have the right-of-way. The signal has the same meaning as a stop sign.
- A *flashing yellow light* means you may go ahead, but proceed with caution.
- A *red arrow* means you cannot make the movement shown by the arrow. The red arrow may be shown alone or with another signal. Unless entering the intersection to make a movement allowed by another signal, drivers facing a red arrow must stop.



- A *yellow arrow* means the signal is going to change to red and warns you to clear the intersection.
- A *flashing yellow arrow* means you must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. You may complete the turn when it is safe to do so.
- A *green arrow* means you may go in the direction shown by the arrow, but you must yield to pedestrians, bicycles and traffic already in the intersection. When a green turn arrow is showing, the turn is protected from other traffic.

You may make a left turn at a red light only when you are turning from a one-way street onto another one-way street that has traffic moving to the left. You must signal, come to a complete stop, and yield right of way to pedestrians and all other traffic that is moving as directed by the signal.

You may make these turns unless a sign, arrow signal or police officer directs you not to turn.

## Pedestrian Crossing

Pedestrians crossing at an intersection must also obey traffic signals.

- A **red light** means do not cross unless a pedestrian signal or police officer directs otherwise.
- A **yellow light** means caution. It warns you the light is changing from green to red. The purpose of the yellow light is to allow vehicles already in the intersection to proceed safely.

Pedestrians facing a yellow light must not start across the street unless a crosswalk signal or police officer directs them.

- A **green light** means you may go straight ahead, turn right or turn left unless a sign forbids the turn.

Pedestrians facing a green light may cross the intersection unless a pedestrian signal or police officer directs otherwise. If a crosswalk is marked, pedestrians are to use the marked area.

Pedestrians facing a green turn arrow are not to cross unless a pedestrian signal or police officer allows them to do so.

## Walk and Don't Walk Signals

Walk/Don't Walk signals are special stop and go lights for pedestrians. If these signals are in place, pedestrians are to obey them. This may also be indicated by a lighted pedestrian figure or hand symbol in the signal.

- WALK means pedestrians facing the signal may cross the street or highway in the direction of the signal.
- DON'T WALK, if flashing, means the signal is changing. Pedestrians may not start across the roadway. However, if you are partly across when this begins flashing, you may continue to the sidewalk or safety island.
- DON'T WALK, if constant, means pedestrians are not to cross.

**Did You Know...**

More than 25 percent of pedestrians killed in Nevada during 2005 were killed walking in an intersection.



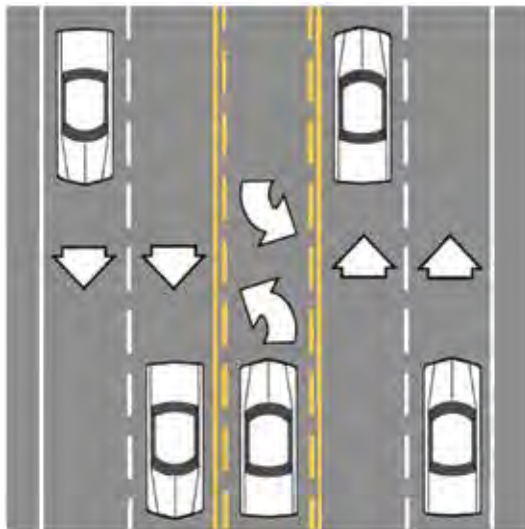
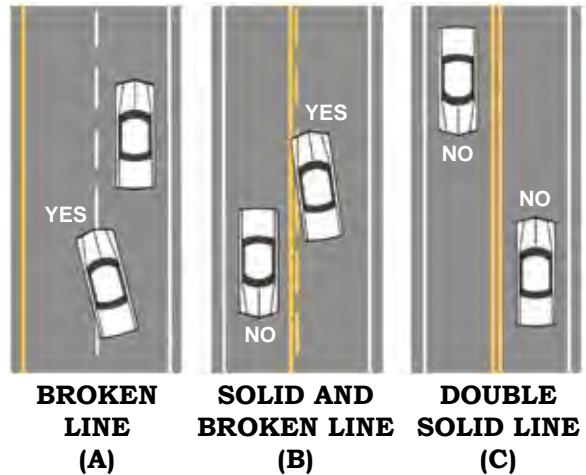
Both drivers and pedestrians are responsible for safe use of our roadways. Drivers should always be prepared to yield to pedestrians.



## Highway Markings

Like signs, highway markings warn, regulate, and inform. Markings are white and yellow, and each type of line has a special meaning.

- **Broken or dashed white lines** are used to mark traffic lanes on roads which have more than one lane moving in the same direction. You should drive within these lanes and not straddle the lines. Passing is permitted when it is safe to do so (see picture (A) below).
- **Solid white lines** are used in several ways. When solid white lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, do not change lanes or pass. The only exception to this is a white line separating a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on a freeway. An HOV is a carpool of two or more people. You may cross to enter or exit the HOV lane. A solid white line is also used to mark the edge of the highway as well as the boundary between a travel lane and a highway shoulder.
- **Yellow lines** separate lanes of traffic moving in opposite directions.
- **Broken or dashed yellow lines** mean you may pass when it is safe to do so (see (B)).
- **Solid yellow lines** indicate that you are not to cross over or pass. A solid yellow line is also used to mark the left edge on multi-lane divided highways.
- **Double yellow lines** mean you cannot pass if the lines on your side are solid (see picture (C) to the right).
- **Crosswalk lines** are marked by solid white lines or various patterns. Always stop your vehicle before the crosswalk. At some intersections, especially in small towns or residential areas, crosswalks may not be marked. You still must yield to pedestrians in the intersection.



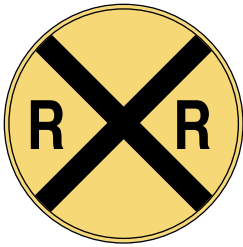
**CENTER TURN LANE**

- **Stop lines** are the wide white lines painted across a traffic lane where you must stop before you enter the intersection. You should be able to see traffic coming from all directions.
- **Dotted white lines** may either indicate an extension of a lane line through an intersection, or may indicate exit-only lanes on a freeway.
- **Center lanes** for left turns appear on many streets and roads. Most are marked on each side by solid yellow and broken yellow lines. You may cross these lines only to make a left turn onto or from the highway. These are not travel lanes and may not be used for passing. You may not travel more than 200 feet in a center turn lane before making a left-hand turn and you may not travel more than 50 feet in a center lane after making a left-hand turn onto the highway before merging with traffic [NRS 484B.223 (3)].

## Railroad Crossings

Traffic control systems for railroad crossings may include signals, signs, lights and markings. When you see the round railway crossing sign, slow down, be ready to stop, and remember:

- To look both ways, even if there is no stop sign or signal that a train is coming.
- If there is a stop sign at the crossing, you must stop. If a train is coming, you must stop at least 15 feet from the tracks.
- Even if there is no stop signal and no train is coming, passenger buses and trucks carrying flammable or dangerous materials must stop.
  - Do not shift gears while crossing the tracks.
  - If you are stopped at a crossing where there is more than one set of tracks, wait until you have a clear view in both directions before you start across.
  - Trains cannot stop in time to miss cars.
  - It is difficult to accurately judge the speed of a moving train.
  - A crossbuck sign indicates the location of a train crossing and means you must yield to trains.
  - If a gate is lowered, you may not proceed around it even if no train is visible.
- If the signal lights are flashing, you must stop. You may proceed if no train is visible or it is safe to cross.
- If you get stuck on the tracks, leave your vehicle immediately and notify local law enforcement or railroad authorities.
- Never park your vehicle within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad.



## School Areas

Traffic controls in school zones may include a combination of signs, signals, markings and school crossing guards. Violating the direction of a school crossing guard is a misdemeanor in the state of Nevada. If a crossing guard is present in a school zone crosswalk, motorists must wait until the guard is completely out of the crosswalk before proceeding.

In school zones the speed limit is either 15 or 25 mph. These speed limits are in effect on school days from half an hour before school begins to half an hour after school ends, unless otherwise posted.

Some areas may use flashing yellow lights to tell you when the speed limit is in effect. These lights may be turned off during hours students are actually in classes. If so, the speed limit then reverts to that posted for non-school hours.



Signs and signals clearly show these speed limits and either designate the hours when the speed limit is in effect or state that the speed limit is in effect when children are present.

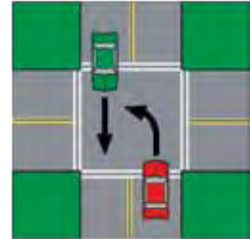
**Slow down and watch for children!**

# Right-of-Way

Right-of-way rules help traffic move smoothly through intersections. They emphasize courtesy, common sense and cooperation. **Failure to yield the right-of-way is the major cause of accidents in Nevada.**

Generally, right-of-way means the right of one vehicle to go before another one. The term also applies to pedestrians and bicycle riders. Nevada law does not really give anyone the “right-of-way” — it only says who must yield. Even when you may legally have the right-of-way, you must do everything possible to avoid an accident.

- At an intersection where there are no traffic signs or signals, the vehicle on your right should usually go first. If you have the right-of-way and others yield it to you, proceed through the intersection with caution.
- A vehicle already in the intersection has the right-of-way over others just getting there.
- A vehicle going straight ahead that is already in the intersection has the right-of-way over one turning left. After yielding (and properly signaling), the vehicle turning left then has the right-of-way.
- Vehicles entering a main road from a minor road, private road or driveway must yield the right-of-way to all traffic on the main road and to pedestrians.



Other right-of-way rules are:

- The right-of-way must be given to emergency vehicles approaching from any direction when they are sounding a siren or using their flashing lights. You must immediately drive to the right side of the road clear of any intersection and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- At a 4-way stop, the driver reaching the intersection first gets to go first, after stopping completely.
- When entering a freeway, yield the right-of-way to traffic on the freeway. You may enter only when it is safe to do so.
- Yield right-of-way to bicyclists riding on a bike path or lane.
- Yield to funeral processions and let the vehicles with headlights on pass as a group.



## Pedestrian Right-of-Way Rules



- Pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections have the right-of-way over vehicles.
- Although pedestrians have the right-of-way in a crosswalk and at intersections, vehicles don't always stop. Before you step off the curb, make certain cars in both directions have stopped. Don't put yourself or anyone else in the position for a potential crash.
- A blind person who is on foot and using a guide dog or other service animal or is carrying a white cane or walking stick has the right-of-way on a highway, street or road in this state. A driver must yield the right-of-way, come to a full stop if necessary, and take precautions before proceeding to avoid accident or injury (NRS 484B.290).



# Controlling Speed

Nevada has a Basic Rule for driving at a “reasonable or proper” speed. This means that in addition to any posted speed limits, you must consider:

- The amount and type of traffic
- The weather and the distance you can see
- The condition of the road surface; that is, whether it is dry, wet, icy or snow-covered
- The type of road:
  - whether it is flat and straight or steep and curvy
  - whether it is wide or narrow

It also means that you are never to drive at a speed that endangers you or anyone else. Depending on conditions, the safe speed may be considerably less than the posted speed limit.

## EXAMPLES OF SPEED LIMITS IN NEVADA

- 15 mph ..... School zones
- 25 mph ..... Business and residential areas and school zones
- 35 mph
- 45 mph ..... Reduced speed areas going into towns
- 55 mph
- 65 mph ..... Urban freeways, rural highways
- 70 mph ..... Rural interstate freeways

Remember: Speed limits are set for normal driving conditions. When bad weather makes it hard to see or makes the road slick, you need to adjust your speed.

Most people who speed do so to save time. Let’s look at how much or how little time is actually saved.

To travel 5 miles:

- At 70 mph takes 4 minutes, 17 seconds. Savings over 60 mph = 43 seconds
- At 60 mph takes 5 minutes. Savings over 55 mph = 27 seconds
- At 55 mph takes 5 minutes, 27 seconds

To travel 15 miles:

- At 70 mph takes 12 minutes, 51 seconds. Savings over 60 mph = 2 minutes, 9 seconds
- At 60 mph takes 15 minutes. Savings over 55 mph = 1 minute, 22 seconds
- At 55 mph takes 16 minutes, 22 seconds

The next time you want to speed, ask yourself:

- Why am I in a hurry?
- Does it really matter?
- Is it worth endangering myself and others?

**And consider: If you are stopped and given a ticket, it will cost you both time and money!**

### Did You Know...

Driving too slowly can also be unsafe. Not only can this cause traffic to stack up — it may also cause other drivers to become impatient and attempt passing when it is not safe. When there are two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, slower traffic must move to the right and allow other drivers to pass.



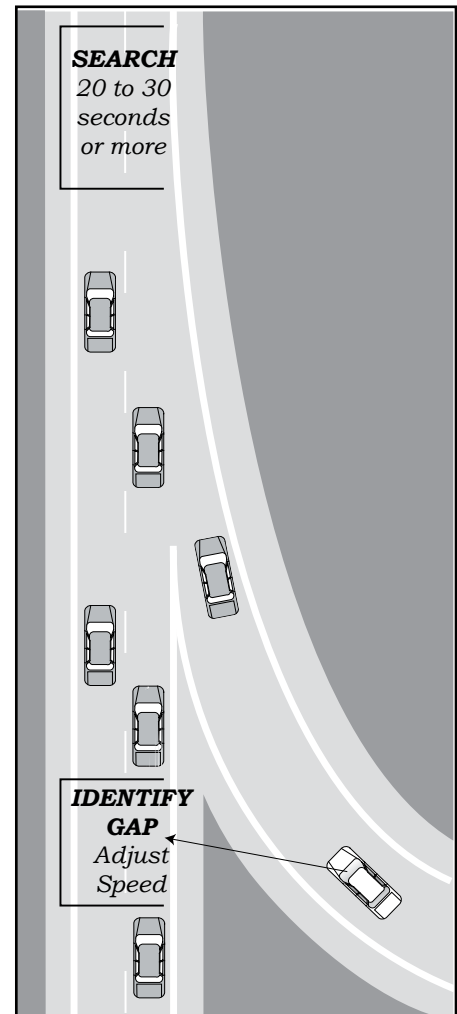
# Freeway Driving

Freeways are usually our safest roads. Access is limited, traffic moves in the same direction without stops, and there are no intersections, sharp curves, traffic signals or railroad crossings. Even so, you need good driving knowledge, skills and attitudes to get to your destination safely.

Before you start, plan your route. If you are not sure of the way, study a map. Know the entrances and exits you will need to take. Also, check your gas gauge!

## Entering a Freeway

- Be sure you are using the on ramp when you enter the freeway. Signs will say “Do Not Enter” and “Wrong Way” if you have made a mistake.
- Using the merge or acceleration lane, look for an opening in traffic, use your turn signal and accelerate to or near the speed of freeway traffic. Do not stop before merging unless absolutely necessary; a stop can mean a slow and dangerous start into fast-moving traffic and can affect traffic behind you.
- As you enter from a merging lane, you must yield to traffic already on the freeway. If you are already traveling on the freeway, watch for merging traffic and adjust your speed to allow safe and smooth merges.
- Driving speeds are frequently faster on freeways than on other highways, even though they may have the same posted speed limits. This is because there are fewer stop-and-go situations. Stay with the flow of traffic.
- Freeways have several lanes in each direction. On these roads, you should leave the extreme left lane for faster traffic. Remember, lane hopping is always dangerous, annoys other drivers, increases the risk of accidents and seldom saves time.
- Stay alert! Be prepared for rapid changes in road conditions and traffic flow. Search much farther down the road – at least 20 to 30 seconds.
- Watch traffic all around you. Be aware of other drivers who are changing lanes, passing or slowing down.
- Use your mirrors and look quickly over your shoulder before changing lanes. Use your turn signals to let other drivers know your plans, and watch for their signals.

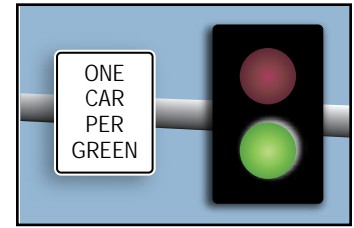




# Ramp Meters and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes —

If a freeway entrance is equipped with ramp meters and they are switched on, you must:

- Pull up to the stop line and stop on red.
- Be alert. The signal will change more rapidly than a signal at an intersection.
- Wait for the green light.
- When the light turns green, proceed along the ramp and merge onto the freeway safely.



Some freeway entrance ramps have more than one travel lane and each lane is controlled by its own ramp meter. Motorists are encouraged to use both lanes and abide by the ramp meter signal controlling their lane of travel.

Some metered freeway ramps have High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) bypass lanes also known as carpool lanes. These lanes are marked with a diamond on the pavement and are not metered. If you are in a carpool of two or more people, you may use the HOV ramp meter bypass lane without stopping.

## Exiting a Freeway

Most freeway exits have a special lane for you to use before you reach the exit ramp. Avoid slowing down on the freeway itself. Wait until you are in the deceleration lane. Then slow gradually until your speed matches the posted exit ramp speed.

- Look ahead for signs telling you about the exit you want and the lane you need to use.
- Check in front, behind and to the side for traffic. Signal and move into the proper lane a mile or more before the exit. Most exits are numbered to help you quickly spot the one you want to take. These numbers are also usually listed on the major freeway signs.
- If you miss the exit ramp, never turn around or back up. Go to the next exit, get back on the freeway in the opposite direction, and return to the exit you want.

**ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD  
WRECK  
IT ALL**

Park the phone before you drive.  
*distraction.gov*

# Anti-Lock Braking Systems

---

ABS stands for anti-lock braking system. Anti-lock brakes prevent skidding and allow drivers to steer during an emergency braking situation.

You can find out whether your car has ABS by looking for a lighted ABS symbol on the dashboard right after starting the engine, checking the owner's manual or asking the dealer.

You will know your ABS is not working if the ABS symbol stays lighted on the dashboard long after the car has started. The conventional brakes will continue to work even when ABS does not. If this happens, follow the traditional lessons learned for emergency braking or stopping situations.

There are two types of ABS: 4-wheel ABS and rear-wheel anti-lock brakes.

It is easy to use 4-wheel ABS once you know how. In simple terms, all you have to do is brake and steer: push the brake pedal down hard, hold it down firmly and steer in the direction you want the car to go.

Many drivers have been instructed that the correct way to stop in an emergency situation where traction is lost and the vehicle slides is to pump the brakes. While this may be correct with conventional brakes, it's different with 4-wheel ABS. In an emergency situation, ABS pumps the brakes automatically at a much faster rate than the driver ever could.

Four-wheel ABS works like this: Whenever the vehicle's computer detects that one or more wheels are locking, ABS begins to pump the brakes to avoid locking. All drivers need to do is press hard on the brake pedal, hold it down and steer out of danger.

*You should not:*

- Turn the steering wheel hard or jerk it in one direction. Jerking the wheel too far can cause the vehicle to end up in the emergency stopping lane or on the shoulder of the road.

*You should:*

- Maintain control by steering where you want to go
- Check that traffic is clear when you decide where to steer
- Steer back into the original lane as soon as the hazard is cleared

Rear wheel anti-lock brakes are found only on some light trucks. They prevent the rear wheels from locking up so the back end of the vehicle does not skid sideways. However, the front wheels can still lock up and cause the driver to lose steering control. If this happens, you should let up on the brake pedal just enough to allow the front wheels to start rolling again to regain steering control.

Drivers should be aware that removing steady pressure from the brake pedal or pumping the brakes will disengage, or "turn off," the ABS.

# Stopping

The ability to judge how much time and space you need to stop your vehicle is a major part of safe driving. The rear-end collision is the number one crash type on Nevada’s streets and highways.

Your stopping distance depends upon many factors, such as:

- The type and weight of the vehicle you are driving
- Your speed
- The condition of the tires and brakes
- The road surface
- Your reaction time
- How alert or how tired you are
- Weather conditions

To stop your vehicle, three things must occur:

- You have to see and understand the reason for stopping (“perception”).
- Your brain has to send a message telling your foot to step on the brake pedal (“reaction”).
- Your foot has to move to the brake pedal and push down.

These three things together are called “Perception and Reaction Distance.” The amount of time it takes from when you see that you need to stop until you step on the brakes is called “reaction time.” Reaction time *increases* as driving decisions become more complex or when unexpected events occur. Highway safety studies show normal reaction times are 2 to 2.5 seconds.

Stopping your vehicle also involves braking time and distance.

- “Braking time” is how much time it takes for the brakes and friction between the road and tires to stop your vehicle.
- “Braking distance” is how far your vehicle travels during this time.

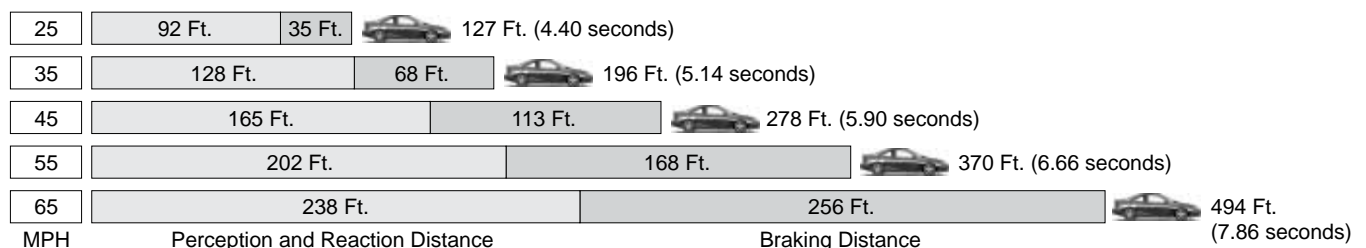
The most important point for any driver to remember is that if you double your speed – say from 30 mph to 60 mph – your braking distance does not become twice as long. It becomes *four times as far*.

Stopping distances on a wet highway may be more than double those on dry pavement. Be especially careful during the first rain of a season because the mixture of oil and water on pavement is very dangerous. Stopping distances on packed snow and ice are greatly increased. For example, if you are going 30 mph, your stopping distance on ice would be 373 feet, well over the length of a football field.

Most cars will begin to lose traction and “hydroplane” between speeds of 35 and 55 mph in heavy rainfall. When this happens, you lose control of your vehicle. Slow down.

## STOPPING DISTANCE AND TIME

For a typical passenger car with perfect 4-wheel brakes, dry pavement, level road, 2.5 second reaction time



# Defensive Driving Tips

Giving yourself time and space to stop is easier if you use these defensive driving guidelines.

- **Look ahead at least 12 seconds.** This means at a minimum you look ahead to where your vehicle will be 12 seconds from now.

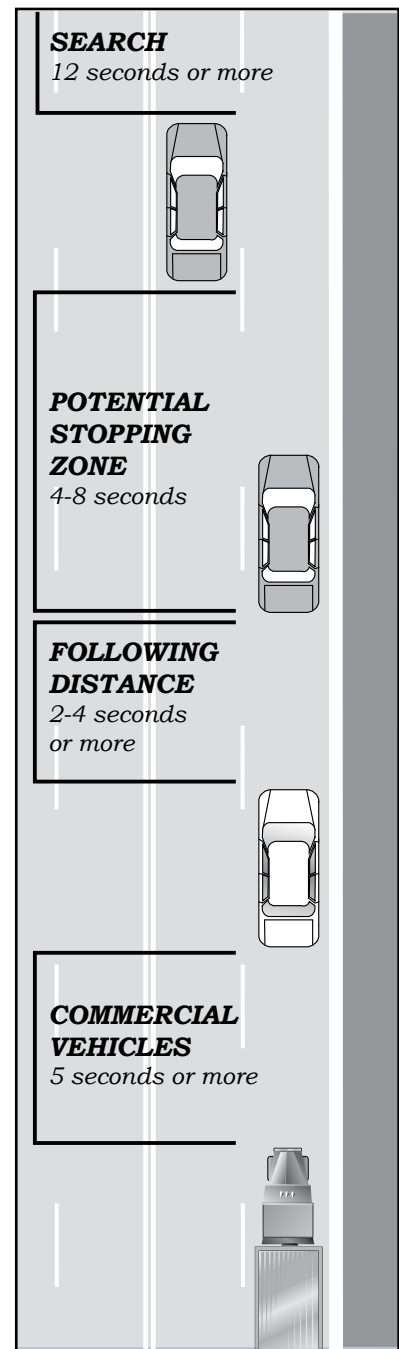
To figure how far this is, choose a fixed object in front of you and begin counting, “one thousand one, one thousand two, etc.” until the front of your vehicle passes the object. If you have not reached “one thousand twelve,” you need to be looking farther ahead. For example, at 30 mph you should see a little over a block ahead.

The 12-second rule allows you to watch traffic patterns and react to changes. When you are driving at freeway speeds you need to look ahead at least 20 to 30 seconds.

- **Stay behind at least 2 seconds.** If you are driving 40 mph or less, stay at least 2 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. This is a minimum following distance. Most driving instructors recommend up to 4 seconds. To figure this, start counting “one thousand one” when the rear of a vehicle ahead passes a fixed point, such as a sign. If you reach the sign before you have counted “one thousand two,” you are following too closely.

Remember, the 2-second rule is a minimum following distance. As your speed increases, so does the time and distance required for you to stop. For example, if you are traveling at 55 mph, you would need almost 7 seconds to stop with perfect brakes and ideal road conditions. So at highway speeds or at any speed when streets and roads are slippery and visibility is reduced, allow a safe distance between you and the next vehicle.

- **Give yourself room to maneuver.** In traffic, this involves the speed you are traveling and your lane position. You want to be between the clusters of vehicles in front of and behind you. You also want to choose a lane position that allows you the most options for movement.
- **Intersections.** When approaching an intersection, it is important to look in all directions. You should look left, right and left again just before entering the intersection.



# What To Do If You Are Stopped By Law Enforcement

Moving violations are the most common reason a vehicle is stopped by law enforcement. Some examples include speeding offenses, failure to stop at a light or sign, failure to use a signal, or failure to drive within the marked lanes. Courtesy and safety concerns are other reasons an officer might stop your car. It is not uncommon for a driver to be in violation of the law without knowing it.

So what do you do when you see red lights flashing in the rearview mirror? Pull over and stop! Drivers who are stopped by law enforcement officers are encouraged to follow these instructions:

- Stop your vehicle as far out of the lane of traffic as possible. Stay in your vehicle. If you are stopped at night, turn on the interior light. Good lighting assists good communication. If you leave the vehicle, you subject yourself and the officer to danger from nearby traffic.
- Keep your hands in plain view at all times (preferably on the steering wheel) and refrain from making any sudden movements. Wait for the officer to request your license, registration and evidence of insurance.
- Officers are trained to ask for identification first and provide an explanation of why you were stopped second. Provide the documents requested, then give the officer a chance to explain why you were stopped. This will speed up the process. Remember, in most cases, the officer is in uniform and is displaying a badge and name tag. You have the advantage of knowing with whom you are dealing; the officer does not. Extend the courtesy by presenting the requested paperwork promptly and without an argument.
- Don't argue the citation with the officer. If you think that the citation was wrongly issued, the proper procedure is to request a hearing through the court system or attend the hearing for which you received notification.



## Racial Profiling

“Racial profiling” means reliance by a peace officer upon the race, ethnicity or national origin of a person as a factor in initiating action when the race, ethnicity or national origin of the person is not part of an identifying description of a specific suspect for a specific crime (NRS 289.820).

Based on the above definition, if you feel you are a victim of racial profiling during a routine stop, you may report your concerns to the law enforcement agency in which the officer works. You may want to have the following information available when you make your report: date, time and location of the incident; name of the officer involved and a badge number, if possible; any witness contact information; and a copy of the citation if one was issued.

# Roundabouts

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A roundabout is a large, circular area in the middle of an intersection meant to control the right-of-way of vehicles. It is a traffic management tool that moves traffic through an intersection without the aid of traffic signals.

Entering traffic must yield the right-of-way to the traffic circulating within the roundabout. All traffic moves in ONE DIRECTION around the roundabout – COUNTERCLOCKWISE.

## How to Drive in a Roundabout

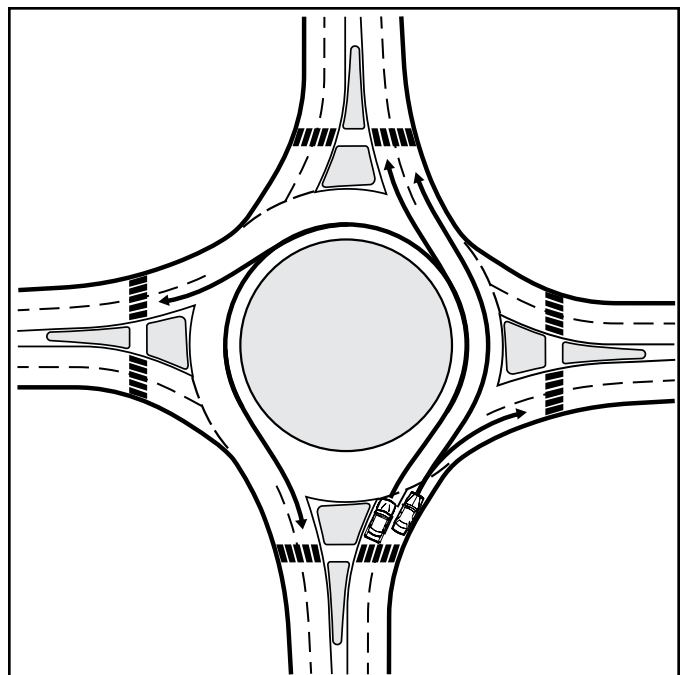
1. As you approach, choose which lane to use as you would for any other intersection.
2. Use the left lane to turn left, complete a U-turn or go straight. Use the right lane to turn right or go straight.
3. Yield. Those in the roundabout have the right-of-way. Wait for a gap in the traffic.
4. Decrease your speed to travel with the traffic already in the roundabout.
5. Use your right turn signal when exiting.

## Trucks:

1. Drive on the circulatory roadway, except large commercial trucks and trailers are permitted to use the truck apron provided around the center island to negotiate the tight turning radius.
2. Drive (usually with just the rear wheels) on the raised pavement of the truck apron to navigate more easily.
3. Cars should not use the truck apron.

## Bicyclists:

1. If you are comfortable riding in traffic, take the lane and circulate with the vehicles, making sure to yield to traffic in the circle when entering.
2. Ride at the speed of the circular roadway to discourage cars from wanting to pass you.
3. Use hand signals when exiting the roundabout.
4. If you are unsure about using the roundabout, dismount and walk your bike in the designated crosswalks.



## Pedestrians:

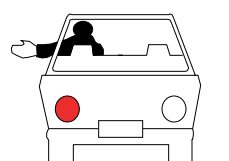
1. Stay in the designated crosswalks at all times.
2. Never cross to the central island.
3. Watch for cars; you have the right-of-way, but always pay attention.

# Signaling, Turning, Lane Changes and Passing

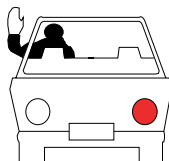
## Signaling

Using signals to tell others that you are going to change lanes, turn, slow down, stop or park is not just common courtesy, it is also the law. Most vehicles have turn signal lights and brake lights are required equipment. Hand and arm signals can also be used.

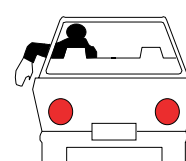
**Note: If the turn signals or brake lights on your car are temporarily out of order, you need to use the following hand signals:**



**LEFT  
TURN**



**RIGHT  
TURN**



**STOPPING  
or SLOWING  
ABRUPTLY**

- Left turn — Extend left arm horizontally out of open window
- Right turn — Extend left arm, with elbow bent upward, at about a 90-degree angle
- Slowing or stop — Extend left arm downward, with palm of hand to the rear

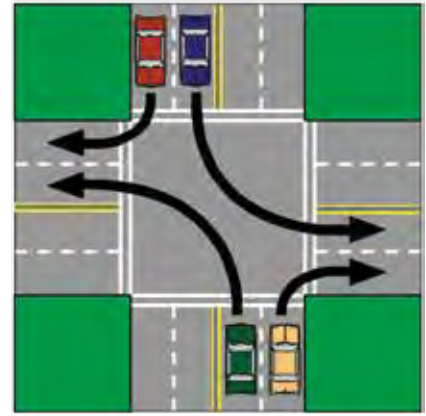
## Turning

To make safe and legal turns, you must:

- Make sure you are in the correct lane well ahead of time
- Look ahead, behind and to each side of your vehicle
- Be aware of other drivers and pedestrians
- Signal your turn at least 100 feet ahead (about 10 car lengths) on city streets and 300 feet (30 car lengths) on open highways
- Watch for and obey traffic signals, signs and pavement markings that direct your movement
- Allow time and space to make your turn safely – slow down
- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic
- Steer through the turn and accelerate to the speed of traffic
- Be sure your turn signal is off after you enter the flow of traffic

Note: Many crashes are caused by drivers making turns. When turning, be especially aware of pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as other vehicles. Before making your turn, look one more time in each direction.

When *turning right*, you must be in the extreme right-hand travel lane or a lane designated for right turns. If a single lane is provided to be used only for turning, you may only enter the lane if you are making a right turn, and may not travel through an intersection while driving in the right-turn lane. Turn into the right-hand lane of the roadway you are entering or the lane designated for the turn. If you then need to change lanes, signal and proceed carefully to the next lane when you are well away from the intersection.

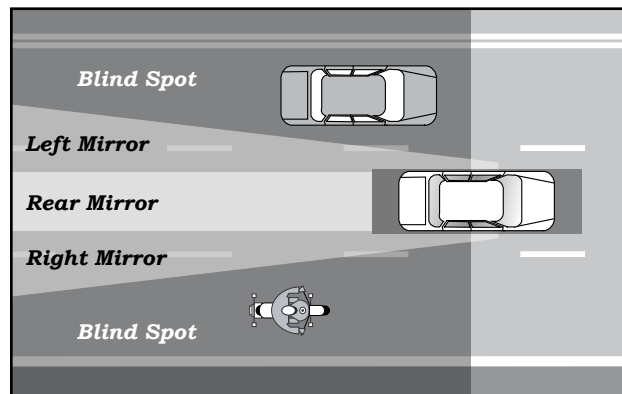


When *turning left*, keep your wheels pointed straight ahead until you begin to actually complete the turn. On a two-way road, use the lane just to the right of the center line and complete the turn into the traffic lane closest to you going in your intended direction. Do not attempt to change lanes until you can do so safely.

## Lane changes

When you want to change lanes:

- Use your rear and side-view mirrors to check traffic
- Signal 100 feet (10 car lengths) on city streets, 300 feet (30 car lengths) on highways or freeways before changing lanes
- Check blind spots by looking over your shoulder and change lanes when traffic is clear
- Do not change lanes in an intersection



## U-Turns

In Nevada, U-turns are generally allowed on any road when they can be made safely. They are specifically not allowed:

- When prohibited by a traffic sign or signal
- In a business district, except at an intersection or an appropriate opening on a divided highway
- On curves
- Near a grade where there is less than 500 feet of visibility in both directions



You should also be aware that local authorities and the Nevada Department of Transportation may prohibit U-turns at any location within their respective jurisdictions.



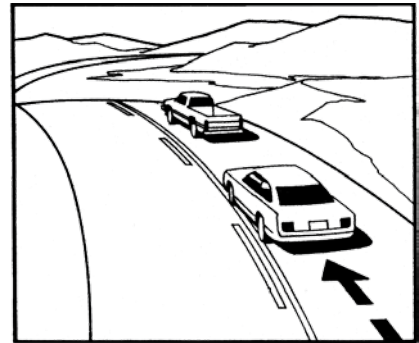
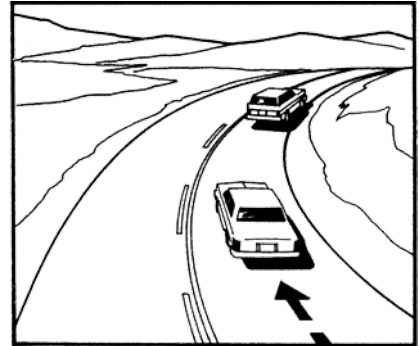
## Passing Another Vehicle

Safe passing rules depend on the type of street or highway you are using. However, you should never exceed the speed limit to pass and you may never use the shoulder of the road to pass.

### Passing is not safe...

#### *On two-lane roads*

- On two-lane roads where traffic moves in opposite directions, you may pass on the left only when:
  - You can see clearly ahead and there is no immediate oncoming traffic;
  - There is a broken yellow line on the highway or when the broken yellow line is in your lane; and
  - It is safe to do so.
- When passing on a two-lane road, turn your left signal light on 100 feet ahead in business or residential areas or 300 feet ahead in other areas. After you have passed, pull back into your lane when you can see the vehicle you passed in your rear-view mirror.
- You must not pass on a two-lane road:
  - When coming to a curve or the top of a hill where you cannot see far enough ahead to be sure it is safe
  - At or within 100 feet of a street crossing
  - At or within 100 feet of a railroad crossing
  - Where there is a double solid yellow line on the highway
  - Where signs prohibit passing
- When another vehicle comes up behind yours and signals to pass, move to the right in your travel lane and let it pass. Never speed up when another vehicle is passing you.



#### *On multi-lane streets and highways*

You may pass vehicles traveling in the same direction on the left if there are no signs or highway markings that indicate passing is not allowed and it can be done safely. Remember to signal, check your mirrors for traffic and look over your shoulder before moving out of your lane. Never pass to the left of a driver who is making or signaling a left turn.

You may pass on the right if the street or highway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction you are, but only when passing is safe. Passing on the right is very dangerous if the other driver does not see you and decides to change lanes. Again, remember to signal, check your mirrors and look over your shoulder to check your blind spots before you change lanes. Never pass on the right when doing so would result in driving off the paved portion of the highway.

## Passing Bicyclists

When passing a cyclist, a motorist must move into the lane to the left if more than one lane for traffic in the same direction exists and doing so is reasonably safe.

If an adjacent lane does not exist, pass to the left of the bicycle at a safe distance, which must be at least three feet. The motorist may not move back to the right until the vehicle is safely clear of the bicycle. Traveling in a marked bicycle lane is prohibited.

## Passing Parked Vehicles

- If you are driving past parked vehicles, stay alert!
- Watch for any sign that a vehicle may be pulling out in front of you, such as:
  - Turn signal is on
  - White backup lights are on
  - Red brake lights are on
  - Exhaust is coming from the tailpipe
- Watch for pedestrians, bicyclists or skateboarders trying to cross between parked cars.
- Watch for vehicle doors opening in front of or beside you.

## Parking

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Here are some general rules about parking safely and legally.

- Whenever you park and leave your vehicle, turn off the engine and set the parking (emergency) brake.
- Before opening your door to get out, look carefully for bicycles and other vehicles.
- Be sure you have your keys, then lock your vehicle.
- Your vehicle should face in the direction that normal traffic flows.
- The legal parking position is with the front and rear wheels within 18 inches of the curb.
- Your vehicle should be visible for 200 feet (about 20 car lengths) in each direction.
- When a roadway has no curb or other barrier and there are no other signs or markings giving instruction, you should park parallel to the road.
- If you must stop on a highway:
  - Park with all four wheels well off the pavement, if possible
  - Leave enough space for other vehicles to pass safely
  - Use your parking lights or 4-way flashers if visibility is poor, or if it is between sunset and sunrise
- When you have to use emergency parking areas on highways and freeways, always use your 4-way flashers or parking lights.

**Note: Steering Wheel Locking Device — Never turn your vehicle’s ignition to the “lock” position while it is still in motion. This will cause the steering to lock if you try to turn the steering wheel and you will lose control of your vehicle.**

## Colored Curb Markings

Colored curb markings mean that parking is controlled as follows:

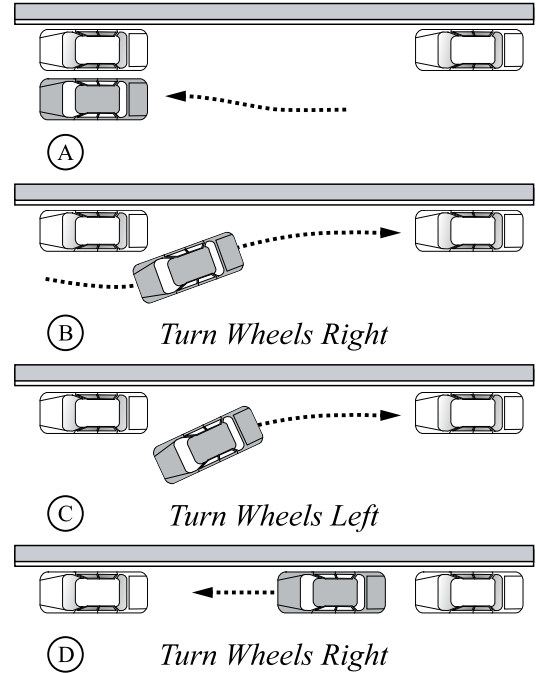
- *White* usually indicates you are allowed a very short stop only to take on or let off passengers, or to drop mail in a mailbox.
- *Green* allows you to park for a limited time. The amount of time is usually shown on a sign.
- *Yellow* means a loading zone and rules depend on local laws.
- *Red* means no stopping, standing or parking; local laws apply.
- *Blue* designates handicapped parking areas.



## Parallel Parking

Parallel parking areas are still common in many Nevada communities. Parallel parking is a driving skill that requires both patience and practice. Here is how to park when there is only one space open between two cars. This guide is for parking *on the right side of the road*. Use the opposite actions for parking on the left side of the road.

1. As you approach the parking space, check the traffic beside and behind you. If the driver behind you is far enough away to stop or move around you safely, use your turn signal to show you are preparing to park.
2. Make sure the space is big enough for your vehicle (about 5 feet longer than your car). Pull up beside the car parked immediately in front of your chosen space. Your car should be about 2 or 3 feet away from the one beside you and your rear bumpers should be lined up across from each other (see picture A).
3. Shift to reverse, check your mirrors and look over your shoulder for traffic behind and beside you. Then slowly back up, turning the steering wheel all the way to the right (see picture B).
4. When the back of your front seat is in line with the rear bumper of the car you are parking behind, straighten the wheels by steering smoothly and quickly to the left (see picture C). Keep your speed slow. If you do not straighten your front wheels, your right rear wheel will hit the curb. If you turn your steering wheel too far to the left, your right front fender may hit the car you are parking behind.
5. Continue to back up slowly until your front fender just clears the other car's left bumper.
6. Looking over your right shoulder, back slowly, turning the steering wheel to the left and stopping before your car touches the vehicle behind you.
7. Shift to drive. Move slowly forward, turn your steering wheel to the right to straighten the wheels, and center your car in the space. You should be about 18 inches from the curb (see picture D).
8. When you are correctly positioned, stop, shift to park (in an automatic transmission car) or first gear or reverse (in a manual transmission car) and set the parking brake.

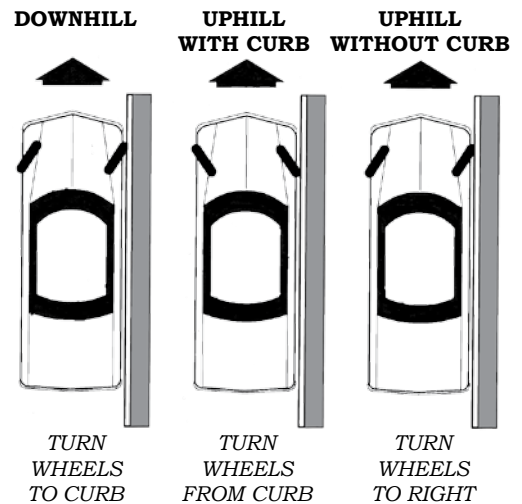


## Parking on a Hill

When parking on a hill, turn your front tires so that if your vehicle should start to roll, it will move away from traffic or into the curb.

When your vehicle is headed downhill, turn your front tires toward or into the curb or road shoulder.

When headed uphill and there is a curb, turn your front tires away from the curb. When headed uphill and there is no curb, turn your front tires toward the road shoulder. Always set your parking brake.



## No Parking Allowed

You may not park your car in any of the following places (NRS 484B.450):

- On a sidewalk
- In front of a public or private driveway
- Within an intersection
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant in a place where parallel parking is permitted or 20 feet of a fire hydrant if angle parking is permitted
- On a crosswalk or within 20 feet of a crosswalk
- Within 30 feet of a traffic control signal at the side of a highway
- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad
- Within 20 feet of a driveway entrance to any fire station and, on the side of a highway opposite the entrance to any fire station, within 75 feet of that entrance
- Next to or opposite any highway construction zone
- Next to any vehicle already parked on the side of the highway (double parking)
- On any bridge or other elevated structure or within a highway tunnel
- In a space reserved for the handicapped unless you have the special license plate or window placard that entitles you to use the space
- Wherever parking is prohibited by signs or curb markings
- Within a bicycle lane (unless your vehicle is disabled)



## In an Emergency

If you have car trouble, move to the shoulder or emergency stopping area as soon as you safely can. Turn on your 4-way flashers to warn other traffic. If possible, it is better to stay in or near your car on the far side from passing traffic. Walking along a freeway is dangerous. If you stay with your car a Nevada Highway Patrol trooper will stop to help you.

**DO NOT STOP ON A FREEWAY EXCEPT FOR AN EMERGENCY.**

## International Symbol of Access



This symbol that appears on reserved parking signs, placards and license plates is the international symbol of access for persons with disabilities. Parking spaces marked with this symbol may only be used when the person to whom the valid disabled placard or license plate was issued is either operating or being transported in the vehicle.

It is illegal for anyone else to park in spaces marked by this symbol. The minimum fine for doing so is \$250 (NRS 484B.467).

# 4

## SPECIAL DRIVING CONDITIONS

Your ability to adjust to different driving conditions is very important. You also need to recognize when conditions are too dangerous to risk driving at all.

### Night Driving

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Driving at night is always more difficult and hazardous than daytime driving. At night, you cannot see as far, as soon or as much. The glare from oncoming headlights also adds to the difficulty.

You can make your night driving safer in these ways:

- Always drive within the range of your headlights
- Keep your speed in control and within posted speed limits
- Do not look directly into the headlights of oncoming vehicles; look down and to the right side of your lane
- Use the road edge line or center line for a guide
- Keep your windshield clean inside and out
- Never wear sunglasses when driving at night
- At night pedestrians are difficult to see – be aware

Headlights are legally required:

- From a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise
- When there is insufficient light
- Whenever persons or vehicles cannot be clearly seen at a distance of 1,000 feet
- When directed by an official traffic control device

It is advisable to use your headlights when driving in rain, snow or fog. In addition:

- Use high beams in open country at night. Change to low beams when you are at least 500 feet before any oncoming vehicles and 300 feet before any vehicle you are following.
- You may flash the headlights to warn a driver ahead you intend to pass.
- Keep headlights clean.
- You should not drive with just the parking lights on.

# D

## Driving in Bad Weather

---

Nevada's weather is notoriously unpredictable. Sudden wind, rain and snowstorms create especially hazardous conditions. Winter driving in many parts of the state means using roads that may be icy or snow-packed.

The most important thing to do when driving in bad weather is slow down. Stopping distances on slippery roads may be 2 to 10 times greater than on dry pavement. If there is fog or it is raining or snowing, you will not be able to see as well as you would normally. Remember that other drivers will be having the same difficulties.

Give other drivers plenty of space and pay special attention to the tail lights on vehicles in front of you. When driving on snow and ice:

- Use all-weather radial tires, snow tires or chains. Even properly equipped vehicles may slide on ice or snow-packed roads.
- Get the feel of the roadway; start out very slowly, then gently test your brakes to find out how well you can stop. Start slowing down long before you come to an intersection or turn.
- Keep a safe distance.
- Reduce speed. There is no such thing as a completely safe speed on snow and ice. Each city block or stretch of highway may be different, depending upon sun, shade, amount of sanding and other conditions.
- Avoid sudden changes in speed or direction. In general, gentle braking (using a slow light touch and release pattern) will allow you to slow down and stop safely. However, if your vehicle has an anti-lock braking system (ABS), a firm, continuous pressure on the brake pedal is needed to activate the anti-lock feature. Please refer to your vehicle owner's manual.
- Keep windows and windshield clear.
- Allow yourself plenty of extra time to get to your destination.

**Note: Studded snow tires may only be used from October 1 through April 30. Tires with retractable studs are allowed any time of year, but the studs may be extended or engaged only during the dates indicated.**

# S

## Skidding

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Skidding means your vehicle's tires have lost traction. Skidding usually happens on ice or packed snow, but it can also occur on wet pavement or graveled roads. Different types of braking and steering systems, as well as vehicles with 4-wheel drive or front-wheel drive, respond in different ways. Please consult your vehicle owner's manual for specific information on skid recovery.

# D

## Driving Emergencies

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Safe handling of driving emergencies such as blowouts, brake failure, a stuck gas pedal or near misses with other vehicles requires special knowledge and skills.

Vehicle features and operating procedures vary greatly from one manufacturer to another. Your vehicle owner's manual is the best source for information on mechanical system failures. It is wise to take the time to become familiar with your vehicle's safety materials and specific features.

The following tips may help you deal with some situations. In all emergencies, stay calm and use common sense.

## Brakes Fail

Try pumping the brake pedal. If the brakes still do not respond:

- Use the emergency parking brake
- If possible, shift to a lower gear. To prevent wear on the brakes, use a lower gear when you are driving downhill for long stretches.
- NEVER place the vehicle into “park”

## Wet Brakes

You should test your brakes after driving through deep water. They may pull to one side or not hold at all. To dry the brakes, put your car in low gear, drive slowly and lightly apply the brakes. Test them about every 200 feet, continuing until braking action returns to normal.

## Windshield Wipers Fail

If the wipers fail in heavy rain or snow, slow down, lower the window and put your head outside so you can see. If possible, move your car off the highway to the right and stop as soon as possible.

## Accelerator (Gas Pedal) Sticks

Quickly press your foot hard against the pedal and release. This may free or release the pedal. If not:

- Shift to neutral
- Apply the brakes
- Pull off the highway to the right (if possible) and stop
- NEVER place the vehicle into “park”

## Headlights Fail

Slow down and pull off the roadway as soon as you can. When headlights fail, your parking lights, turn signals or 4-way flashers will usually still work and can be used to guide you safely to the side of the road.

## Fire

If smoke comes from under the hood, slow down, pull off the road and turn off the ignition immediately. Use extreme caution when opening the engine hood. If you do not have a chemical fire extinguisher, you can smother a fire by using sand or dirt. DO NOT USE WATER because burning gasoline will float on water and spread the fire. If you have no way to stop the fire or if it gets out of control, move well away (at least 100 feet) from your vehicle.

## Steering Fails

- If you suddenly lose steering control, ease up on the accelerator.
- If your car continues to hold the lane, slow down and then gently apply the brakes. Use your 4-way flashers to warn other drivers!
- If your vehicle heads off the road or toward another vehicle or a pedestrian, apply the brakes quickly using maximum pressure.



## Oncoming Vehicle in Your Lane

If you see a vehicle coming toward you in your lane, slow down, sound your horn, flash your headlights and pull as far to the right as you safely can. Do not swing into the lane the approaching vehicle has left because the other driver may suddenly realize his or her mistake and turn back into the proper lane.

## Running Off the Pavement

Running off the highway can result in an extremely serious single-vehicle crash. This type of “accident” accounts for a high number of fatalities in Nevada. Driver fatigue, inattention and speeding are all major factors in these crashes.

If your vehicle drifts onto the shoulder or if you are forced off the road:

- Stay calm.
- Take your foot off the accelerator. If you brake, do so carefully.
- Grip the steering wheel firmly.
- Do not try to swerve back onto the pavement. Instead, stay on the shoulder until you have your vehicle completely under control and gently ease back onto the road.

## Blowouts

A blowout (when a tire suddenly loses air) can throw a vehicle out of control. Use the following tips for safe recovery:

- Grip the steering wheel firmly.
- Ease up on the gas pedal to slow down. Do not hit the brakes!
- Look for a safe place to pull off and signal your intent to move off the highway.
- When you are sure your vehicle is under control and you have slowed down, gently use the brakes to stop.
- Make sure your vehicle is safely off the roadway and use parking lights or flashers to warn other drivers.

## Flooded Engine

If your vehicle engine is flooded:

- Do not pump the gas pedal. Instead, press the pedal to the floor, and run the starter steadily for short intervals (10 –15 seconds).
- When the engine starts, release the gas pedal.

## Disabled Vehicle

- If possible, get all four wheels off the roadway.
- Use parking lights, flashers or flares to warn other drivers.
- Have the vehicle towed as soon as possible.



# Tips for Driving in a Flash Flood

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Nevada's dry climate creates an ideal situation for flash flooding to occur, particularly during the summer months. Drivers need to use extra caution when driving during a summer storm, spring thaw or prolonged rains.

More than half of all flash flood fatalities are auto-related. Here are some facts about flooding:

- Less than 1 inch of water can cause a driver to lose control of his or her car
- Most vehicles can float in 2 feet of water or less
- Cars traveling at a high rate of speed can be pushed off the road by only 6 inches of water

If you encounter a flooded roadway, don't attempt to drive through it. Turn around and seek an alternate route or wait until the water subsides. Although it may look like just a few inches of water on the roadway, it is difficult to determine the depth of floodwaters. You have no idea if the road has washed away underneath, causing a hazardous situation for drivers.

If your vehicle stalls in rising flood water and you can safely do so, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away. Once vehicles begin to float they move toward deep, faster-moving water where escape is even more dangerous and top-heavy vehicles may roll over. Deaths often occur because people mistakenly believe that vehicles provide protection from rising, swiftly moving waters.

If you find yourself in this situation, you must make a judgment call about whether you can make it to higher ground or if you would be better off remaining with your vehicle. The only sure safety rule is to turn around and avoid flooded roadways in the first place.

Additional guidelines:

- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Avoid already flooded areas and areas subject to sudden flooding. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams or water flowing over the roadway.
- If you are driving and come upon rapidly rising waters, turn around and find another route. Move to higher ground away from streams, creeks and flood control channels.
- If your route is blocked by floodwaters or barricades, find another route. Barricades are put up by local officials to protect people from unsafe roads. Never drive around barricades. Driving around them can be a serious risk.

# Highway Work Zones

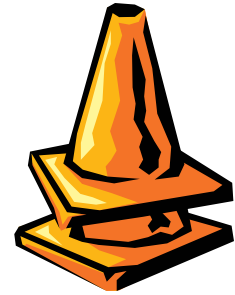
Work zones are identified with orange signs, cones and barrels. Work zones are hazardous areas for both workers and motorists. Stay alert. Lanes often narrow and the road is not smooth. Sometimes cars must come to a complete stop. Use extra caution when approaching cars ahead since they may be stopped. Flaggers and pilot cars are often used to control traffic. Do not move any barriers or signs to cross over a road that is closed to traffic. Doing so is illegal and you will be subject to double penalties for work-zone violations.

Fines for speeding double in work zones! Black and white speed limit signs are regulatory. Orange speed limit signs are advisory and indicate slower, safer speeds. If time is a concern, consider another route or start your trip earlier.

Visibility in a work zone may be reduced, especially at night. Be alert and do not drive when you are tired. Watch for other drivers who may be sleepy.

- Whenever you see orange signs, slow down and watch for equipment and people working on the road.
- Be aware of flaggers working to direct traffic and follow their instructions for everyone's safety.
- Merge carefully and cooperatively.

Traffic control in work zones provides additional safety for those who are working. It is also meant to protect and reduce risks to motorists traveling through the work zone. For everyone's sake, be careful, obey the signs and arrive safely.

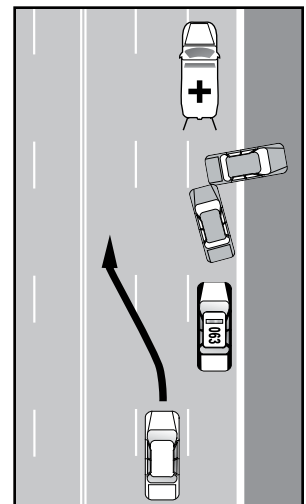


# Approaching a Stopped Emergency Vehicle

Drivers in Nevada have certain duties when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle making use of flashing lights. This applies to all types of emergency vehicles, including tow trucks.

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
- 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.



*When passing stopped emergency vehicles, slow to less than the posted limit and move into a non-adjacent lane.*



# 5

## SHARING THE ROAD

### Commercial Vehicles

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Over 200,000 crashes occur between cars and commercial vehicles each year. Many of these crashes could be avoided by keeping these points in mind:

- Large commercial vehicles cannot maneuver like a car or other smaller vehicles
- Large commercial vehicles have much larger blind spots than smaller vehicles
- Large commercial vehicles take more time and space to slow down or stop
- Most crashes between large commercial trucks and smaller cars are caused by the car drivers
- In commercial vehicle and small car accidents, the people in cars are much more likely to be killed or injured than the driver of the commercial vehicle

#### What is a No-Zone?

The “No-Zone” is the area around large commercial trucks or buses where cars “disappear” into blind spots. If truck drivers cannot see you, the possibility of a collision is greatly increased. These blind spots are the Side No-Zone, Rear No-Zone and Front No-Zone areas. The right-side blind spot is doubly dangerous because trucks and buses make wide right turns!

#### Side No-Zones

Do not “hang out” on either side of trucks or buses!

Trucks and buses have big No-Zones (blind spots) on both sides. They are much larger than your car’s blind spots. If you cannot see the driver’s face in the side view mirror, he or she cannot see you. If that driver needs to swerve or change lanes for any reason, the chances of a collision are greatly increased.



## Front No-Zones

*Pass safely!*

You could get “rear ended” by a large commercial truck or bus if you cut in front too soon after passing, then immediately slow down. This can force truck and bus drivers to slam on their brakes. These large vehicles need nearly twice the time and distance to stop as cars. When passing, look for the whole front of the commercial truck or bus in your rearview mirror before pulling into the truck’s lane – and then do not slow down!

## Rear No-Zones

*Avoid tailgating!*

Unlike cars, large commercial trucks and buses have huge No-Zones directly behind them. The truck or bus driver cannot see your car there and you cannot see what is going on beyond the truck or bus. If the truck or bus driver brakes or stops suddenly, you have no place to go and could end up running into them.

*Pay close attention!*

Never pass behind a commercial truck that is backing up! Hundreds of motorists and pedestrians are killed or injured each year by ignoring trucks that are backing up. The truck drivers cannot see smaller vehicles or people directly behind their vehicles and may not see you cut in behind them.

## Wide Right Turns

*Avoid the “squeeze play”!*

Large commercial truck and bus drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn or swing wide to the right to safely make a left turn. They cannot see cars directly behind or beside them. Trying to “squeeze” between a commercial vehicle and the curb is an invitation to disaster!

# Motorcycles

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Motorcyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other drivers. However, there are special situations and conditions we all need to be aware of to safely share the road.

- Motorcycle operators have the right to use a complete traffic lane. Per NRS 486.351 (3), “Motorcycles and mopeds may, with the consent of the drivers, be operated no more than two abreast in a single traffic lane.” Without the consent of the driver, motorcycles couldn’t ride side by side and would have to remain in a staggered formation.
- Because of their smaller size, motorcycles are less visible and may appear to be farther away than they really are.
- It is difficult for other drivers to judge how fast a motorcycle is going.
- Motorcycles may be forced from their position on the road by strong winds or a rough road surface.
- Turn signals are not self-canceling on most motorcycles. Before you make a lane change or turn that depends on what path a motorcycle is taking, be sure you know what the motorcyclist is doing.
- Watch for clues, such as operators or passengers turning their heads to look behind or operators beginning to lean or tilt their motorcycles.
- If you are coming up behind a motorcycle, slow down sooner than you would for another vehicle. Leave plenty of space.

- Always dim your headlights when approaching a motorcycle. Because motorcyclists balance as well as steer their vehicles, the blinding effect of your high beams can be far more dangerous to them than to drivers of cars or large commercial trucks.
- Bad weather and slippery roads can present real problems for motorcyclists. Allow even more following distance when it is raining or the road is slippery.

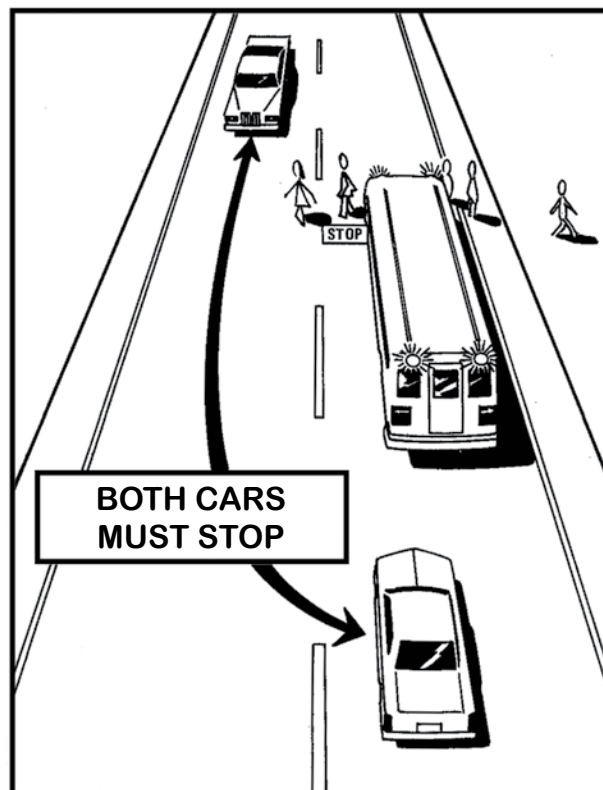


Motorcycle operators require a special endorsement to their Nevada driver's license. If you want additional information, please contact your local DMV office and ask for a copy of the Motorcycle Handbook. You may also visit the DMV website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).

## School Buses

You are required to stop for school buses that are loading or unloading students. NRS 484B.353 requires a driver to stop at any location for a school bus displaying a flashing red light signal. You may not attempt to overtake or proceed past the school bus until the bus driver has turned off the flashing red lights. There is one exception to this rule: on divided highways, you are only required to stop when you are traveling in the same direction as the school bus.

Nevada law allows school bus drivers to report violations to the school district and the Department of Motor Vehicles. When this occurs, the registered owner of the vehicle will be sent a warning letter explaining the seriousness of the violation.



**SCHOOL BUS LOADING  
AND UNLOADING**

# Bicycles

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The number of people using bicycles for transportation and recreation is increasing. Cyclists must obey the same rules and regulations as other types of vehicles. The safe interaction between bicyclists and motorists is the responsibility of both parties.

Motorists who cause even a minor collision with a bicycle or pedestrian or who intentionally interfere with the movement of a bicycle may be charged with reckless driving. Penalties include a driver's license suspension. Bicyclists may not intentionally interfere with the movement of a motor vehicle.

- Cyclists may ride in a traffic lane, staying as far to the right as practicable unless preparing to turn or overtake another vehicle.
- Cyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals. If a cyclist chooses to cross an intersection in a crosswalk, he should dismount and cross as a pedestrian.
- Bicyclists must use hand signals to let others know what they plan to do. The operator is required to give a hand signal one time unless the bike is in a designated turn lane or if safe operation requires the rider to keep both hands on the bicycle. The cyclist may use his right arm to signal a right turn.
- At intersections, motorists must yield to cyclists as they would for other vehicles and pedestrians.
- When passing a cyclist, a motorist must move into the lane to the left if more than one lane for traffic in the same direction exists and doing so is reasonably safe.
- If an adjacent lane does not exist, pass to the left of the bicycle at a safe distance (which must be no less than 3 feet). The motorist may not move back to the right until the vehicle is safely clear of the bicycle.
- Motorists must yield the right-of-way to a cyclist on a bicycle path or in a bike lane.
- Motorists may not stop, park or drive on a designated bicycle path or lane unless they are entering or leaving an alley or driveway, performing official duties, are directed by a police officer or an emergency situation exists.
- Inexperienced riders, especially children, require special courtesy and care. They may not always follow traffic rules. Be especially careful around these riders and expect the unexpected.



## Be Especially Cautious...

- When turning at an intersection or driveway, check both ways for cyclists.
- Never speed up to pass a cyclist just before you make a turn.
- When parked on the street, check to your rear for cyclists before you open your car door.
- Check both ways for cyclists when backing out of a driveway or parking lot.

## Cyclists Should...

- Obey the law
- Wear a helmet
- Wear brightly colored clothing
- Keep bikes in good repair

Remember – Motorists and cyclists have an equal right to use our roadways and need to be mutually courteous and cooperative.

## Cyclists Should Not...

- Ride on the wrong side of the road
- Wear a headset (headphones, cellular phone earpiece, etc.) when riding
- Ride at night without required lights and reflectors

# Passengers in the Bed of a Truck

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If you live in Nevada, and are under the age of 18, you may not ride on the bed of a flatbed truck or within the bed of a pickup truck if the truck is being driven on a paved highway. The exception to this is if you are being driven in a parade authorized by a local authority or if the vehicle is being used in the course of farming or ranching.

# Pedestrians

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As a motorist, you must watch for pedestrians on streets and highways. You should be especially careful when children are present.

Motorists are required to exercise due care to avoid a collision with a pedestrian and pedestrians must not place a motorist in a position which makes it impossible to avoid a collision. Motorists who cause even a minor collision with a pedestrian may be charged with reckless driving.

- Drivers must exercise proper caution upon observing a pedestrian on or near a highway, street or road, within or near a school zone or within a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Pedestrians have the right-of-way when crossing at an intersection. Drivers are obligated to yield to pedestrians who are attempting to cross the road.
- It is illegal for motorists to overtake any vehicle that is slowing down or stopped until the motorist slows down enough to determine why the other vehicle has slowed or stopped.
- Be particularly aware and careful of pedestrians at intersections. Watch for pedestrians at stop signs, traffic signals and around transit stops.
- A crosswalk exists anywhere two streets intersect, even at a “T” intersection. A crosswalk exists even if it is not painted or marked.
- When a traffic signal turns green, drivers must yield to persons who are still crossing the street. Pedestrians have the right of way over motorists making a right-hand turn.
- If there is a sidewalk, pedestrians should use it. If there is no sidewalk, pedestrians should walk on the side of the road facing the traffic.
- Vehicles yielding to a pedestrian should wait until the pedestrian has crossed into the lanes going in the other direction before proceeding.
- If a crossing guard is present, motorists must wait until the guard is completely out of the crosswalk before proceeding.

## Safe Walking Tips

- Use crosswalks. If the crosswalk has a signal, obey it.
- A flashing “Don’t Walk” means do not cross. If you are in the intersection when a signal starts flashing, finish crossing.
- Before crossing, look left, right and left again for oncoming or turning traffic. Establish eye contact with drivers who slow down or stop to ensure the driver is yielding the right-of-way to you.
- Whenever possible, wear brightly colored clothing when walking to alert drivers to your presence.
- If walking at night, carry a flashlight and use reflective materials to help drivers see you.

Remember – Courtesy and cooperation will greatly enhance pedestrian safety!



# 6

## TOWING

Non-commercial class C drivers may tow a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less and a total length of no more than 70 feet.

This chapter is meant to provide class C drivers some general information on towing. For further information on towing or for those who wish to obtain a J endorsement, read the Nevada Non-Commercial A and B, J Endorsement Study Guide. The study guide can be found on the DMV website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).

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## oading and Securing a Trailer

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### Loading a Trailer

This section tells you about loading your trailer safely whether it is a travel trailer, fifth wheel, horse trailer, or other type of trailer. All drivers must understand some basic loading safety rules. Loading a trailer incorrectly can be a danger to others and to yourself. Other highway users can hit or be hit by items that come loose or the inside of your trailer can be damaged during a quick stop or crash.

### Weight and Balance

It is important to know the weight and balance of your loaded trailer. Overloading can have bad effects on steering, braking and speed control. Overloaded vehicles have to go very slowly on upgrades. Worse, they may gain too much speed on downgrades. Stopping distance increases and brakes can fail when forced to work too hard.

Here are some definitions of weight you should know:

- *Gross vehicle weight (GVW)* — The total weight of a single vehicle plus its load
- *Gross combination weight (GCW)* — The total weight of a powered unit plus trailer(s) plus the load
- *Gross combination weight rating (GCWR)* — The weight specified by the manufacturer of a vehicle as the combined loaded weight of that vehicle and a trailing vehicle
- *Axle weight* — The weight transmitted to the ground by one axle or one set of axles
- *Tire load* — The maximum safe weight a tire can carry at a specified pressure. This rating is stated on the side of each tire.
- *Suspension systems* — Suspension systems have a manufacturer's weight capacity rating
- *Coupling device capacity* — Coupling devices are rated for the maximum weight they can pull and/or carry



Don't be top-heavy. The height of a vehicle's center of gravity is very important for safe handling. The higher the center of gravity (items piled up high or heavy items on top), the easier it is to turn over. It is very important to distribute the load or cargo so it is as low to the ground as possible. Put the heaviest items under the lightest parts or in the lower storage compartments.

It is also important to balance the weight. Improper weight balance can make vehicle handling unsafe. Too much weight on the steering axle can make steering difficult and cause damage to the steering axle and tires. Under-loaded front axles (caused by shifting the weight too far to the rear) can make the steering axle weight too light to steer safely. Also, too little weight on the driving axles can cause poor traction and the drive wheels may spin easily. During bad weather, the vehicle may not be able to maintain balance. If you have too much weight on one side of the trailer, it could cause it to roll over, especially on turns. Rolling over is also more likely in turns or curves if you have to swerve to avoid a hazard. There are two things a driver can do to prevent a rollover:

- Go slowly around turns
- Keep the cargo as close to the ground as possible

On flatbed trailers, there is also a greater chance that the load will shift to the side or fall off.

## Securing a Trailer

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### Ball and Hitch Coupler

A ball and hitch coupler is used on many types of trailers. This type of hitch is composed of a ball attached to the towing vehicle and a coupler at the end of the tongue or A-frame assembly at the front of the trailer. A load distributing hitch is used for heavier models such as utility trailers, boat trailers and travel trailers. Load distributing hitches use special equipment to distribute the tongue load to all axles of both the tow vehicle and the trailer. This helps stabilize the tow vehicle.

When hitching a trailer to a vehicle, make sure:

- All components of the ball and hitch coupling are present and not broken
- The trailer tongue is not bent, cracked or otherwise damaged
- The ball attachment is locked into the mounting attachment of the towing vehicle with the pin and clip or other locking device
- The ball is seated firmly in the coupler
- The coupler safety latch is secured in the down position
- The safety chains are attached and crossed
- The electric lines are firmly seated and locked in place
- The safety chains and electric lines are not tangled, pinched or dragging

### Fifth Wheel Hitch

This type of hitch is mounted to the bed of a truck and is used with a fifth wheel trailer. The fifth wheel trailer has a kingpin at the end of the coupling unit on the front of the trailer. Because it is a very stable assembly, balance and weight distribution issues are less likely to occur. A disadvantage to this type of hitch is that it takes up most of the space in the bed of the truck and requires that the remaining space behind the hitch assembly is kept clear for turning corners.

Before backing your vehicle under the trailer, make sure the trailer brakes are locked. It is important to make sure the locking lever is locked after the jaws close around the kingpin. If the locking lever is not locked, the coupling is not right and should be fixed before driving the coupled unit. Also make sure the mounting assembly is not loose or missing any parts and the kingpin is not bent. The mounting assembly must be solidly attached.

When hitching a fifth wheel trailer to a vehicle, make sure:

- The electric lines not chafed, spliced, or worn
- The electric lines are connected and not tangled, pinched, or dragging
- The platform does not have cracks or breaks in the structure that supports the fifth wheel skid plate
- There is no space between the upper and lower fifth wheel coupling
- The trailer is lying flat on the fifth wheel skid plate
- The fifth wheel plate is greased as required to prevent steering problems
- The release arm is in the engaged position and the safety latch is in place, if the fifth wheel has one. To unlock the fifth wheel, pull the release handle to the open position.

## Inspecting Your Trailer

As part of your pre-trip inspection, always check the following:

- Overloads, poorly balanced weight, and items that are not secured correctly
- Ensure all outside storage compartment doors are latched securely or locked
- Test the truck and trailer connection for security by gently pulling forward in low gear against the locked trailer brakes and then looking at the connection. The electric lines and chains from the car, truck, or RV to the trailer should be secure but allow enough slack for turns.

Inspect the trailer and the load securing devices again within 50 miles after beginning an extended trip. Make any needed adjustments and inspect again after you have driven for 3 hours or 150 miles. It is also wise to inspect the trailer during every break you take throughout the drive.

## Towing Safely

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- *Be Aware of Your Surroundings* — To be a safe driver, you need to know what's going on all around your vehicles. A lack of awareness is a major cause of accidents.
- *Use Your Mirrors* — It's important to know what is going on behind and to the sides of your vehicle. You need to use your mirrors to be aware of traffic and to check your vehicle. Check your mirrors more often in special situations.
- *Signal Your Intentions* — Other drivers can't know what you are going to do until you tell them. Signaling what you intend to do is not only important for safety; it's the law.
- *Communicate Your Presence* — Other drivers may not notice your vehicle even when it's in plain sight. Let them know you're there to help prevent accidents.

## Effect of Vehicle Weight on Stopping Distance

The heavier the vehicle, the more work the brakes must do to stop it and the more heat they absorb. However, brakes, tires, springs, and shock absorbers on heavy vehicles are designed to work best when the vehicle is fully loaded. Empty trucks actually require greater stopping distances because they have less traction. Also, an empty truck can bounce and lock up its wheels, making it harder for the brakes to work.

## Managing Space

To be a safe driver, you need space all around your vehicle. When things go wrong, space gives you time to think and to take action. To have space available when something goes wrong, you need to manage your space. While this is true for all drivers, it is especially important for large vehicles. They take up more space and require more space for stopping and turning.

## Backing With a Trailer

Backing with a trailer is different than backing a single vehicle. When backing a single vehicle, you turn the top of the steering wheel toward the direction you want to go. When backing with a trailer, you turn the steering wheel in the opposite direction. Once the trailer starts to turn, you must turn the wheel the other way to follow the trailer.

Because you cannot see everything behind your vehicle, backing up is always dangerous. Avoid backing whenever you can. When you park, try to park so you will be able to pull forward when you leave.

When you do have to back up with a trailer, try to position your vehicle so you can back in a straight line. Here are a few simple safety rules:

- *Look at your path.* Look at your line of travel before you begin. Get out and walk around the vehicle. Check your clearance to the sides and overhead in and near the path your vehicle will take.
- *Back slowly.* Always back as slowly as possible. That way you can easily correct any steering errors and stop quickly if necessary.
- *Use the mirrors.* Your mirrors will help you see whether the trailer is drifting to one side.
- *Correct drift immediately.* As soon as you see the trailer getting off course, correct it by turning the top of the steering wheel in the direction of the drift.
- *Use driver-side backing.* Back and turn toward the driver's side whenever possible, especially on a curved path. Backing toward the right side is very dangerous because you can't see as well. If you back and turn toward the driver's side, you can watch the rear of your vehicle by looking out the side window. Use driver-side backing even if it means going around the block to put your vehicle in this position. The added safety is worth it.
- *Pull forward.* When backing a trailer, make pull-ups to reposition your vehicle as needed.
- *Use a helper.* Try to use a helper – they can see places where you have blind spots. The helper should stand near the back of your vehicle where you can see him. Before you begin backing, work out a set of hand signals that you both understand. Agree on a signal for "STOP."

## Right Turns

Here are some rules to help prevent right-turn crashes:

- Turn slowly to give yourself and others more time to avoid problems.
- If you are driving vehicles that cannot make the right turn without swinging into another lane, turn wide as you complete the turn. Keep the rear of your trailer close to the curb. This will stop other drivers from passing you on the right (see Figure 1 below).
- Don't turn wide to the left as you start the turn. A following driver may think you are turning left and try to pass you on the right. You may crash into the other vehicle as you complete your turn (see Figure 2 below).
- If you must cross into oncoming traffic to make a turn, watch out for vehicles coming toward you. Give them room to go by or stop. However, don't back up for them because you might hit someone behind you.



Figure 1

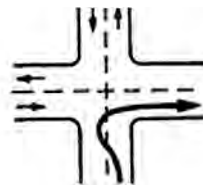
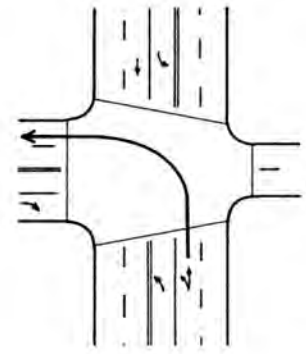


Figure 2

## Left Turns

On a left turn, make sure you have reached the center of the intersection before you start the turn. If you turn too soon, the left side of your vehicle may hit another vehicle because of off-tracking.

If there are two turning lanes, always take the right hand turn lane. Don't start in the inside lane because you may have to swing right to make the turn. Drivers on your right may be hard for you to see. You may crash into them.



## Space Needed to Cross or Enter Traffic

Be aware of the size and weight of your vehicle when you are crossing or entering traffic. Here are some important things to keep in mind:

- Because of slow acceleration and the space large vehicles require, you may need a much larger gap to enter traffic than you would in a car.
- Acceleration varies with the load. Allow more room if your vehicle is heavily loaded.
- Before you start across a road, make sure you can get all the way across before traffic reaches you.

## Space Overhead

Hitting overhead objects is a danger. Make sure you always have sufficient overhead clearance.

- Don't assume that the height posted at bridges and overpasses is correct. Repaving or packed snow may have reduced the clearances since the height was posted.
- The weight of a vehicle changes its height. An empty trailer is higher than a loaded one. A bridge where you had clearance with a loaded vehicle may be too low for your vehicle when it is empty.
- If you doubt you have enough space to pass under an object, go slowly. If you aren't sure you can make it, take another route. Warnings may or may not be posted on low bridges or underpasses.
- Some roads can cause a vehicle to tilt. There can be a problem clearing objects along the edge of the road, such as signs or trees. Where this is a problem, drive a little closer to the center of the road.
- Before you back into an area, get out and check for overhanging objects, such as trees, branches, or electric wires. It's easy to miss seeing them while you are backing. Check for other hazards at the same time.

## Space Underneath

Many drivers forget about the space under their vehicles. That space can be very small when a vehicle is heavily loaded. Railroad tracks can stick up several inches. This is often a problem on dirt roads and in unpaved yards where the surface around the tracks can wear away. Don't take a chance on getting hung up halfway across. Drainage channels across roads can cause the end of some vehicles to drag. Cross such depressions carefully.

# Towing Multiple Vehicles

## Combination of Vehicles

Combinations of vehicles are usually heavier, longer, and require more driving skills than single vehicles or truck/trailer combinations. This means that drivers of combinations of vehicles need more knowledge and skill than drivers of single vehicles. In this section, we talk about some important safety factors that apply specifically to combinations of vehicles.

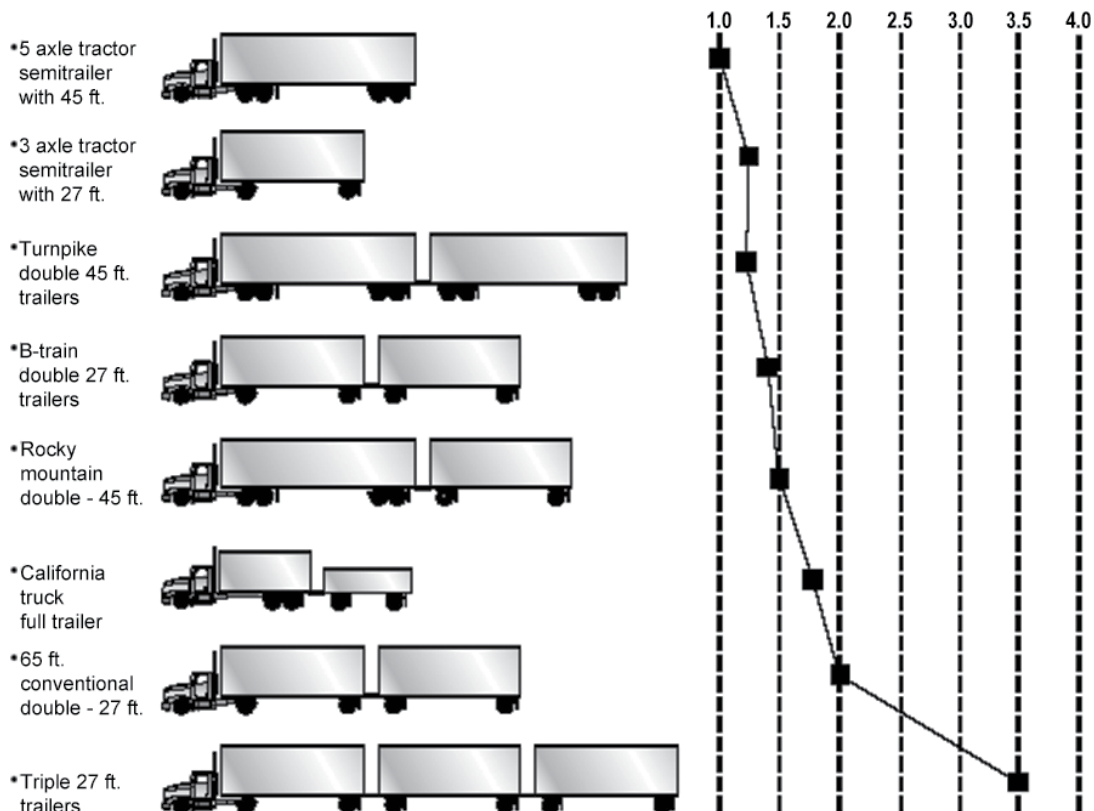
When towing a combination of vehicles, the heaviest vehicle must always be in the first position behind the towing vehicle. The lighter vehicle should be in the rear.

Vehicles with trailers have a dangerous “crack-the-whip” effect which increases with multiple trailers. When you make a quick lane change, the crack-the-whip effect can turn a trailer over. There are many accidents where only the trailer has overturned.

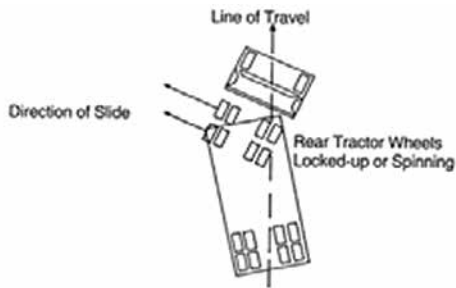
“Rearward amplification” causes the crack-the-whip effect. The figure below shows eight types of combination vehicles and the rearward amplification each has in a quick lane change. Rigs with the least crack-the-whip effect are shown at the top and those with the most are at the bottom. Rearward amplification of 2.0 in the chart means the rear trailer is twice as likely to turn over as the truck. You can see that triples have a rearward amplification of 3.5. This means you can roll the last trailer of a triple 3.5 times as easily.

Steer gently and smoothly when pulling trailers. Trailers flip over from quick steering moves more easily than many vehicles.

### INFLUENCE OF COMBINATION TYPE ON REARWARD AMPLIFICATION



## Brake Early



Control your speed whether fully loaded or empty. Large combination vehicles that are empty take longer to stop than when they are fully loaded. When lightly loaded, the very stiff suspension springs and strong brakes give poor traction and make it very easy to lock up the wheels. Your trailer can swing out and strike other vehicles. Your vehicle can jackknife very quickly (see picture to the left).

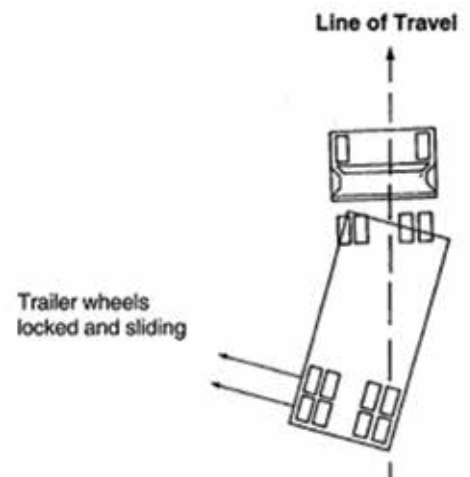
In any combination rig, allow a lot of following distance and look far enough ahead so you can brake early. Don't be caught by surprise and have to make a "panic" stop.

## Prevent Trailer Skids

When the wheels of a trailer lock up, the trailer will tend to swing around. This is more likely to happen when the trailer is empty or lightly loaded. This type of action is often called a "trailer jackknife" (see picture at right).

## Recognizing a Skid

The earliest and best way to recognize that the trailer has started to skid is by seeing it in your mirrors. Any time you apply the brakes hard, check the mirrors to make sure the trailer is staying where it should. Once the trailer swings out of your lane, it is very difficult to prevent a jackknife.



## Stop Using the Brake

Release the brakes to get traction back. Do not use the trailer hand brake (if you have one) to straighten out the rig. This is the wrong thing to do, since the brakes on the trailer wheels caused the skid in the first place. Once the trailer wheels grip the road again, the trailer will start to follow the vehicle and straighten out.



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# 7

## INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In Nevada, all motorists must comply with mandatory insurance and financial responsibility laws.

Nevada law establishes minimum amounts of liability insurance that you must carry when you drive or own a vehicle. You are required to carry proof of liability insurance in your vehicle.

Nevada requires that automobile liability insurance policies carry a minimum coverage of \$15,000 for bodily injury or death of one person in any one accident; \$30,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more persons in any one accident; and \$10,000 for injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident. Coverage must be reported and provided by an insurance company authorized to do business in the Nevada.

The State of Nevada requires that all registered motor vehicles be covered by liability insurance. The Department of Motor Vehicles has established a Nevada Liability Insurance Validation Electronically (NV LIVE) program to identify uninsured motorists and enhance the public safety of Nevada residents. Through the use of computer programs in partnership with licensed Nevada insurance companies, the DMV has been very successful in identifying registration records where insurance has been terminated or had a lapse in coverage. If your registration is suspended for a lapse of insurance and no new coverage for that time frame has been obtained, you will be required to pay a reinstatement fee and applicable fines (starting at \$250 and totaling up to \$1,750) for each registered vehicle covered by that insurance. You may also be required to carry SR-22 insurance.

Financial responsibility laws also apply to accidents and include the following provisions:

- If you are in an accident that is investigated by law enforcement, your insurance information and a description of damages or injuries will be sent to the DMV by the investigating officer.
- If you are in an accident that is not investigated by law enforcement and the accident causes \$750 or more in damages or anyone is injured, you must complete and send a Report of Accident Form (SR-1) within 10 days to:

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles  
Central Services Division — Financial Responsibility Section  
555 Wright Way  
Carson City, NV 89711-0400

- You must complete the accident report form (SR-1) if you are either the driver or the registered owner of the vehicle.
- You can get a report form from any DMV office, the Nevada Highway Patrol, a local law enforcement agency or the DMV website at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com).



- For any accident, the DMV Financial Responsibility Section determines:
  - Who was at fault
  - If all vehicles or drivers were insured
  - The total amount of liability
- If you are at fault and do not have liability insurance:
  - Your driver's license and/or vehicle registration may be suspended;
  - You will have to post a deposit with the DMV to cover the costs of the accident; or
  - You must make arrangements with the other parties to pay for damages or injuries.

If you do not report an accident to the Department of Motor Vehicles, your driver's license and/or your vehicle registration may be suspended.

## SR-22 Insurance: Proof of Financial Responsibility

Some drivers may be required to file an SR-22 form as a condition of reinstatement. SR-22 is a form of liability insurance on a driver's license that allows the Department to monitor the insurance of a suspended and/or revoked driver record through information received from the driver's insurance company. The cost of this insurance is dependent upon the structure of the insurance company.

The period of coverage begins when you actually reinstate and you need only to file this form once. Do not purchase SR-22 coverage until you have met all other reinstatement requirements and are ready to apply for your license.

For more information regarding financial responsibility laws, please call or email the DMV.

## What To Do in a Crash

- Stop
- Get medical help for the injured
- Warn traffic
- Notify law enforcement
- Fender bender? Move to the shoulder. If there is only damage to a vehicle or other property (no injuries) and the vehicle can be moved safely, move to a location that does not obstruct traffic and return to the scene.
- Exchange your name, address, driver's license number, registration and insurance information with other drivers involved.
- If the accident involves an unattended vehicle or other property, you must give the owner your name, address, driver's license number, registration and insurance information, either in person or by leaving a note.



# 8

## YOUR DRIVING RECORD

**In Nevada, getting a driver's license is a privilege.** Once you have your license, you need to continue to drive safely, obey the rules and respect the rights of other drivers. If you do not, your license may be suspended, revoked or cancelled.

Information about traffic accidents and convictions becomes part of your driving record. Even traffic violations that occur in other states are added to your Nevada driving record.

Most violations are reportable to your insurance company for 3 years. Convictions related to DUI (Driving Under the Influence) stay on your record for 7 years.

### Demerit Point System

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The DMV uses a demerit point system as part of its driver improvement program. All traffic law violations are assigned a point value. When the DMV receives a conviction notice from a court, the offense is entered on your driver record and points are assigned. Demerit points are counted during a 12-month period.

- If you receive 12 or more points in any 12-month period, your license will be suspended.
- If you have accumulated between 3 and 11 points, you may have 3 points removed by completing a traffic safety course at a school approved by the DMV. You may attend traffic school only once in a 12-month period to remove points from your record.
- Attending traffic safety school removes a maximum of 3 demerit points. Points will be removed when the school reports completion for credit. However, the record of the conviction remains part of your driving history.

**Note: A conviction of a major traffic offense, such as DUI or causing substantial bodily harm, will result in your license being revoked. These offenses are not assigned demerit points.**

The DMV will notify you if your license status is in jeopardy due to unsafe driving habits.

The following is a partial list of traffic violations and demerit points that can be assigned to your driving record:

Reckless driving.....	8
Careless driving .....	6
Failure to give information or render aid at the scene of an accident.....	6
Following too closely.....	4
Failure to yield right-of-way.....	4
Failure to yield to a pedestrian .....	4
Disobeying traffic signal or stop sign .....	4
Impeding traffic, driving too slowly .....	2
Failure to dim headlights .....	2

## Speeding

1-10 mph over posted limit.....	1
11-20 mph over posted limit.....	2
21-30 mph over posted limit.....	3
31-40 mph or more over posted limit.....	4
41 mph or more over the posted speed limit .....	5
Prima Facie speed violation or driving too fast for the conditions .....	2

**Note: If you have a Commercial Driver’s License, there are additional penalties for some traffic violations and additional demerit points may be assigned.**

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**It is against the law to give false information when applying for your Nevada driver’s license. It is also illegal to alter your license in any way, lend it to someone else or use another person’s license.**



Visit [www.dmvnv.com/mydmv](http://www.dmvnv.com/mydmv) and sign up for a free online account. See your license status and expiration date. Get an online driver history printout and complete lists of demerit points, violation codes and court information.

# 9

## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Alcohol is a mind-altering drug that works as a sedative. It changes the way you think and act. It affects judgment and coordination. In 2005, it was a factor in over 37% of Nevada's highway deaths.

Usually, the term "drugs" refers to controlled substances that are illegal such as marijuana or cocaine. However, this term can also apply to prescription and over-the-counter medications. Many drugs such as tranquilizers, sleeping pills, cold and allergy medicines and pain medications can affect your driving ability.

The effects of any drug can vary significantly from one person to another and can also vary in the same person at different times.

Taking more than one drug at a time is particularly dangerous because each drug can add to the impact of the other. This is especially true when one of the drugs is alcohol.

Nevada laws on driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs are tough. Under these laws, there are two types of penalties:

- *Administrative:* Action taken against a driver by the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles regardless of the court findings
- *Criminal:* Action taken by the court system

If an officer suspects you are driving under the influence, you will be asked to take blood, breath or urine tests. These tests are given to determine if you have used alcohol or drugs. You cannot refuse the tests. An officer may also direct that blood samples be drawn, even on a first offense.

Under Nevada's Illegal Per Se Law, if chemical tests show an alcohol concentration of .08% or more or any detectable amount of a controlled substance, your driving privilege will be revoked. If you are under the age of 21 and a chemical test shows an alcohol concentration of .02%, but less than .08%, your driving privilege will be suspended. This is an administrative penalty and the officer can take your license immediately.

**Note: Even though an alcohol concentration of .08% is used as a guide, you can be arrested and convicted with a lower level.**

Anytime you lose your license, you can ask for an administrative hearing through the Department of Motor Vehicles.



# Penalties for DUI

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## Administrative - Illegal Per Se Action

.08% alcohol concentration or detectable amount of controlled substance in your blood (or .04% or more but less than .08% if you hold a Commercial Driver's License):

- Driver's license is revoked for 90 days
- May be required to file an SR-22 Proof of Financial Responsibility (see Chapter 6)
- Criminal penalties may be imposed

.02% alcohol concentration for drivers under 21 years of age

- Driver's license is suspended for 90 days
- May be required to file an SR-22 Proof of Financial Responsibility (see Chapter 6)
- Criminal penalties may be imposed

## Criminal Action

First DUI offense:

- Driver's license revoked for 90 days. After half the revocation period has been completed, a restricted license may be issued.
- Jail sentence of 2 days to 6 months or 96 hours of community service
- Fine of \$400 to \$1,000
- Payment of tuition for DUI school (average cost \$150)
- May be ordered to attend a program of treatment when the concentration of alcohol in your blood or breath is .08% or more.



Second DUI offense within 7 years:

- Driver's license revoked for 1 year; not eligible for restricted license
- Jail sentence or residential confinement of 10 days to 6 months
- Fine of \$750 to \$1,000
- 100 to 200 hours of community service
- Possible vehicle registration suspension
- May be ordered to attend a program of treatment or be placed under clinical supervision of a treatment facility for up to one year

Subsequent DUI offense within 7 years:

- Driver's license revoked for 3 years. A restricted license may be issued – contact your local DMV office for more information.
- Prison sentence of 1 to 6 years
- Fine of \$2,000 to \$5,000
- Possible vehicle registration suspension
- May be ordered to attend a program of treatment for a minimum of 3 years

DUI causing death or serious injury:

- Driver's license revoked for 3 years
- Prison sentence of 2 to 20 years
- Fine of \$2,000 to \$5,000

**If you have a Commercial Driver's License, any detectable amount of alcohol can affect your driving privilege. More severe DUI penalties also apply, including lifetime disqualification from commercial driving.**

# DUI Laws for Young Drivers

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Tough DUI laws also apply to young drivers. A licensed driver under the age of 18 found by juvenile court to have been driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will have his or her license suspended for 90 days.

A driver under the age of 18 who is found by juvenile court to have been driving under the influence, or a driver under the age of 21 who is convicted of a DUI, will be required by the court to undergo evaluation for alcohol or drug abuse. Based on the evaluation report, the judge may order alcohol or drug treatment for the offender.

## Other DUI Laws

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Nevada's open container law makes it illegal to have alcoholic beverages which have been opened in the driver or passenger areas when a vehicle is being driven. It does not apply to the living quarters of motor homes or house trailers, or to the passenger areas of commercial buses, limousines or taxis.

If you are found guilty of a DUI offense and you had passengers under the age of 15 in the vehicle you were driving, the court will consider that as an aggravating factor in determining your sentence.

If you plead guilty or are found guilty of DUI (alcohol or drugs) and a chemical test was conducted, the court will impose an additional \$60 fine to cover the costs of the chemical analysis.

## Clues That A Driver May Be Under The Influence or Impaired

Knowing what to look for in another driver's behavior may keep you from being a DUI victim. If you see a driver doing any of the following, watch out! These are all clues to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs:

- Making a turn too widely
- Using two lanes, straddling the center line
- Almost hitting someone or something
- Weaving or drifting from one side of the lane or road to another
- Driving off the road or going straight through turn lanes
- Driving too slowly for the speed limit and traffic conditions
- Stopping in traffic without a reason
- Following too closely
- Driving with the tires on the lane markers or center line
- Erratic braking (riding the brakes, using brakes for no reason or braking in an uneven, jerky way)
- Driving into oncoming traffic
- Responding slowly to traffic signals
- Sudden changes in speed
- Turning abruptly or illegally
- Driving at night with headlights off
- Swerving to correct course

### Did You Know...

In 2005, 159 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes. That equates to 37 percent of all fatalities - two percent under national figures.



**Note: You can report a suspected drunk driver or any highway emergency on a cellular phone anywhere in Nevada by dialing \*NHP (\*647)**

# 10

## LICENSE SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS

You may lose your Nevada driving privileges and your license under certain circumstances. Licenses are not automatically reinstated following suspension or revocation. You must:

- Reapply at a DMV office
- Present the documents required for Evidence of Name, Date of Birth and Social Security Number as listed in Chapter 1 of this manual
- Meet any other reinstatement requirements
- Pay the required reinstatement fees

Examples of driver's license suspensions and revocations are listed below. License issuance may be delayed for some juvenile offenses.

- *Point Suspension:* When you accumulate 12 or more demerit points against your license in a 12-month period
- *Driving Under the Influence:* If breath, blood or urine tests reveal you are driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol or if you are convicted of DUI
- *Collision with a Bicyclist or Pedestrian:* If you cause a collision with a person riding a bicycle or a pedestrian
- *Failure to Appear:* If you receive a traffic ticket and do not pay the fine on time or appear as required
- *Security Deposit:* If an accident occurs with more than \$750 in damage (personal injury or property damage) and you do not have liability insurance, your driver's license and vehicle registration plates are suspended
- *Failure to Maintain Insurance:*
  - If you are required to provide proof of financial responsibility because of a license suspension or revocation and do not do so
  - If you are cited by law enforcement and convicted of failure to maintain insurance
  - If you have repeated lapses in vehicle liability coverage
- *Child Support:* If you are in arrears in court-ordered child support payments
- *Graffiti:* If you are found guilty of a graffiti violation
- *Firearms:* If a juvenile is found guilty of certain offenses related to firearms
- *Street Racing:* If you are found guilty of participating in or organizing an unauthorized speed contest on a public highway
- *Alcohol and Drugs:* If a juvenile is found guilty of buying, drinking or possessing alcohol or using, possessing, selling or distributing any controlled substance

# 11

## NEW NEVADA RESIDENT VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

You must register your vehicle(s) within 30 days of establishing residency in Nevada or at the time you obtain your driver's license, whichever occurs earlier.

### Required Original Documents

- Most recent registration certificate
- Out-of-state license plates
- Nevada Evidence of Insurance card
- Nevada Emissions Vehicle Inspection Report (smog check) in certain areas of Clark and Washoe counties. For exempt areas, please refer to NAC 445B.593 and 445B.594.
- Nevada Vehicle Identification Number Inspection Certificate (completed at a DMV office, any authorized DMV agency or by a law enforcement officer).
- Certificate of Ownership/Title unless held by a lienholder. If ownership is not changing, the owner has the option of retaining the out-of-state title.

The full legal name must match on the registration, ownership/title certificate and evidence of insurance.

### Liability Insurance Information

Out-of-state insurance is not accepted. You must either notify your insurance carrier that you have moved or purchase a new policy in Nevada. The State of Nevada requires that all vehicles actively registered be continually insured by an insurance company authorized to do business in this state. An Evidence of Insurance Card furnished by the company must be carried in the vehicle at all times.

Nevada law requires coverage in amounts of at least:

- \$15,000 for bodily injury or death of one person;
- \$30,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more persons; and
- \$10,000 for injury or destruction of property of others

If you cancel your insurance and do not obtain new insurance, you must cancel your Nevada vehicle registration and surrender your license plates on the same day.

### Emission Control Vehicle Inspection Report (Smog Check)

A passing Vehicle Inspection Report is required in Clark and Washoe Counties for most gasoline-powered vehicles of model year 1968 and newer. The following vehicles are exempt: motorcycles, new vehicles on their first or second registration (in any state), hybrid-electric vehicles that are up to five model years old, alternative-fueled vehicles (compressed natural gas or propane) and restored vehicles that are driven less than 2,500 miles annually and registered with special license plates.

A passing Vehicle Inspection Report is required in Clark and Washoe Counties for diesel-powered vehicles of model year 1968 or newer with a GVWR of 14,000 lbs. or less. New vehicles are exempt on their first or second registration (in any state).





# OFFICE LOCATIONS

Business hours for all offices are Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

\* These offices have extended hours on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Carson City**

555 Wright Way  
Carson City, Nevada 89711-0400  
(775) 684-4DMV

**Elko**

3920 Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801-4970  
(775) 753-1126

**Ely**

178 N. Avenue F  
P.O. Box 150088  
Ely, Nevada 89315  
(775) 289-1620

**Fallon**

973 W. Williams Street  
Fallon, Nevada 89406-2602  
(775) 423-4316

**Hawthorne**

1085 Highway 95, Suite B  
P.O. Box 2093  
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415  
(775) 945-4424

**Henderson\***

1399 American Pacific Drive  
Henderson, Nevada 89074-8806  
(702) 486-4DMV

**Las Vegas - East\***

2701 E. Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104-4170  
(702) 486-4DMV

**Las Vegas - West\***

8250 W. Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89147-4112  
(702) 486-4DMV

**Laughlin**

P.O. Box 32908  
3030 S. Needles Highway, Suite 900  
Laughlin, Nevada 89028-2908  
(702) 298-3100

**Mesquite**

550 W. Pioneer Blvd. Suite 120  
Mesquite, Nevada 89027-4778  
(702) 346-8673

**North Las Vegas\***

7170 N. Decatur Blvd.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89131-2798  
(702) 486-4DMV

**Pahrump**

1780 E. Basin Ave.  
Pahrump, Nevada 89060-4605  
(775) 727-4141

**Reno\***

305 Galletti Way  
Reno, Nevada 89512-3824  
(775) 684-4DMV

**Tonopah**

1137 S. Main Street, Suite C-8  
P.O. Box 511  
Tonopah, Nevada 89049-0511  
(775) 482-6329

**Winnemucca**

3505 Construction Way  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-3155  
(775) 623-6515

**Yerington**

215 W. Bridge Street, No. 9  
Yerington, Nevada 89447-2570  
(775) 463-3146

## Commercial Driver's License Offices

### Carson City

555 Wright Way  
Carson City, Nevada 89711-0600  
(775) 684-4368

### Elko

3920 Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801-4970  
(775) 753-1126

### North Las Vegas

4110 Donovan Way  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030-7512  
(702) 486-5655

### Sparks

810 E. Greg Street  
Sparks, Nevada 89431-6534  
(775) 688-2535

### Winnemucca

3505 Construction Way  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-3155  
(775) 623-6515

## Administrative Offices

### Carson City

555 Wright Way  
Carson City, Nevada 89711-0900  
(775) 684-4549

## Acknowledgements

We thank the following organizations and agencies for their contributions and assistance:

- ABS Education Alliance • American Automobile Association • American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators
- Federal Highway Administration • Motorcycle Safety Foundation • National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- National Safety Council • National Traffic Safety Institute • Nevada Department of Transportation • Nevada Highway Patrol • Northern Nevada Literary Council • U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Motor Carriers, Nevada Division







# Take Back Your Time

## PERSONALIZED ONLINE SERVICES



MyDMV puts all of your license and vehicle records in one place. See your expiration dates and current status. Complete a renewal, change your address, get a driver history printout and much more. MyDMV offers more than a dozen online transactions designed to save you time and trips to a DMV office.

## THERE'S A KIOSK NEAR YOU!

Look for a "DMV in a Box" at a supermarket, convenience store, a DMV office or other location in your neighborhood. Kiosk transactions are simple and fast. Your records are updated instantly. The kiosk dispenses your registration and plate decal or driver history printout on the spot.

Find a location at [www.dmvnv.com/kiosk](http://www.dmvnv.com/kiosk). Services are offered in English and Spanish with voice assistance. All kiosks accept credit and debit cards, as well as checks. Kiosks at DMV offices accept cash.



See what you can do online at [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com)