

The population has been increasing rapidly in Nevada for many years. Along with the population increase has come the increase in vehicle traffic on our roads and highways and an increase in the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities.

In 2005, over 43,000 people lost their lives on roads and highways in this country; approximately 117 deaths per day. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for persons age 3 to 33. There were over 2,600,000 injuries nationwide in 2005. It is estimated that the economic cost of crashes in the United States in 2000 was over \$230 billion. In Nevada, there were approximately 375 deaths in 2007, a steady increase from 314 in 2001.

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Nevada Department of Public Safety through the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) and the Office of Traffic Safety are dedicated to making our highways safer and more efficient for everyone to use. These state agencies want to do whatever is possible to reduce the number of highway incidents which take too many lives and cost so much money and time. For these reasons, NDOT, the NHP and the Office of Traffic Safety have joined forces to inform the traveling public about the traffic laws in Nevada and how everyone can drive more safely. It is hoped that a continuing series of articles about traffic laws and issues will help reduce the needless injuries and deaths on our highways.

To find more information regarding Nevada's traffic laws, state statutes are the first place to look. Nevada traffic laws are found in chapter 484 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), on the [Nevada Legislature's](#) web site. In addition, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD) is a wealth of information pertaining to the standards used nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all streets and highways.

The contributors to this series include Fred Droes, NDOT chief traffic safety engineer; Colonel Chris Perry, the chief of the NHP; Traci Pearl, the Division Administrator for the Office of Traffic Safety; and Brian Hutchins, a consultant attorney and a former Nevada chief deputy attorney general who donates his time to the project.