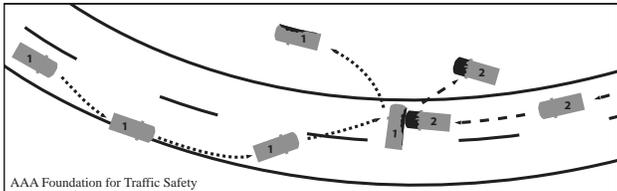


# Lane Departures

Crashes that begin with the vehicle running off the pavement or otherwise departing from the lane of travel are a leading cause of fatal crashes.

Drivers tend to jerk the wheel or "overcorrect" to get back onto the road. The vehicle will careen across the highway into oncoming traffic or the driver will overcorrect again and the vehicle may roll over.



## The Off/Off Rule

Keep your foot off the accelerator and off the brakes if your vehicle has run off the pavement.

- Don't panic! Ease off on the accelerator. Don't use the brakes unless you're headed for an obstacle.
- Gently steer the vehicle parallel to the road. Continue to slow down. In extreme cases, it may be safer to keep going straight until you can stop.
- Check for traffic approaching in the lane you will re-enter and signal.
- Gently ease the wheels onto the pavement.
- Straighten into the first lane and speed up to the flow of traffic.

## Avoid Drowsy Driving

### What Works

- Get adequate sleep - Schedule your work and plan your trip to give yourself the time to sleep.
- Stop - Find a safe place to stop for some good sleep such as motel, rest area, friend's house, etc.
- Nap, then Stop - If you are not near a safe stop, a 20-minute nap can help you stay alert long enough to get to a safe place.
- Caffeine - Two cups of strong coffee or the equivalent.

### What Doesn't Work

- Brief exercise
- Loud music
- Keeping the windows down

These may help for a few moments but they are no substitute for adequate rest.



## Who is at risk?

Head-on collisions and other types of lane departure crashes can happen to anyone at any time. But specific groups most at risk include males age 26 to 35, drivers on rural roads and those on the road between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday are the most dangerous days of the week for lane departure crashes.

## Road Improvements

The Nevada Department of Transportation is making improvements on state roadways to help combat lane departure crashes.

### Rumble Strips

Centerline rumble strips have been added to selected state roadways. Shoulder strips helped reduce interstate lane departure crashes by 42 percent. Centerline strips will save even more lives.



### Cable Barriers

Certain highways feature center cable barriers consisting of heavy-duty cables strung along a row of posts. The cables catch misguided vehicles like a net, avoiding head-on collisions.



## Fender Bender? Move Over

You must move the vehicle to a location that does not obstruct traffic if there are no injuries, your vehicle is obstructing traffic and the vehicle can be moved safely. Then return to the scene.

(NRS 484E.020)

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