

Speeding and Aggressive Driving

Speed Limits Are **More than a Sign**

Nevada has a Basic Rule for driving at a "reasonable or proper" speed. (NRS 484.361) In addition to the posted speed limit, you must also consider:

- The amount and type of traffic.
- The weather and the distance you can see.
- The type of road and condition of the surface.

The Basic Rule means you *never* drive at a speed that endangers you or anyone else.

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?



Traffic crashes **are not** "accidents".
They are both **predictable** and **preventable**.
Stay safe – **Buckle Up** on Every Trip!

Laws You Should Know

Nevada has strict penalties for many traffic offenses.

- **Double Penalties in Work Zones.** This penalty applies regardless of whether workers are present. Courts may double the fine, community service or jail terms for traffic offenses committed in highway work zones up to certain maximums. The area must be marked as a double-penalty zone. (NRS 484.3667)
- **Flagpersons.** A driver who disobeys a flagperson and causes injury to a road worker or more than \$1,000 in damage is subject to a fine of at least \$1,000 and 120 hours of community service. This may be doubled under the double penalty law. (NRS 484.254)
- **Stopped Emergency Vehicles.** If you are approaching a stopped emergency vehicle displaying its flashing lights, you must slow down to a reasonable speed which is less than the posted limit and, if possible, drive in a lane which is not adjacent to the lane in which the emergency vehicle is stopped. (NRS 484.364)
- **School Zones.** You must wait for all persons, including the crossing guard, to completely clear the road before proceeding. (NRS 484.356)

What Is **Aggressive Driving**?

Aggressive driving is all around us. Most of us see it every day - the road racer, the red light runner, the tailgater, the frequent lane changer.

Nevada law makes aggressive driving an offense in and of itself. If a driver speeds, creates an immediate hazard and commits two other offenses such as red light running or tailgating over the course of one mile, he may be prosecuted for aggressive driving independently of the other offenses. (NRS 484.3765)

Minimum penalties include a \$250 fine, traffic school and a possible driver license suspension for the first offense. Courts must impose a one-year driver license revocation for a second conviction within two years.

"Road rage" is considered only one part of aggressive driving behavior – the part which goes beyond traffic offenses into criminal activity.

Avoid a **Problem**

Here's what to do if you are confronted with an aggressive driver.

- **Get Out of the Way.** First and foremost make every attempt to get out of their way.
- **Put Your Pride Aside.** Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- **Avoid Eye Contact.** Eye contact can sometimes enrage an aggressive driver.
- **Gestures.** Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- **Report Serious Aggressive Driving.** You or a passenger may call the police. If you use a cell phone, pull over to a safe location.

Don't **Be** a Problem

Plan ahead and give yourself extra time.

- **Concentrate.** Don't allow yourself to become distracted by talking on your cellular phone, eating, drinking or putting on makeup.
- **Relax.** Tune the radio to your favorite relaxing music. Music can calm your nerves and help you to enjoy your time in the car.
- **Drive the Posted Speed Limit.** Fewer crashes occur when vehicles are travelling at or about the same speed.
- **Identify Alternate Routes.** Even if it looks longer on paper, you may find it is less congested.
- **Use Public Transportation.** Public transportation can give you some much-needed relief from life behind the wheel.
- **Just be Late.** If all else fails, just be late. A ticket or a crash will cost you much more time.

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