



Quick Clearance for Safety and Mobility

Whenever a roadway or travel lane is closed or partially blocked by a crash or traffic incident, Law Enforcement, Transportation and local public safety agencies shall re-open the roadway as soon as possible on an urgent basis. Safety of the public and responders is the highest priority and must be preserved.

State of Nevada

OPEN ROADS POLICY

This agreement by and between the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) supports the Nevada Statewide Joint Operations Policy Statement (JOPS) and, establishes a policy for DPS and NDOT personnel to expedite the removal of vehicles, cargo and debris to restore, in an urgent manner, the safe and orderly flow of traffic following a motor vehicle crash or incident on Nevada's roadways. This policy establishes a suggested benchmark for all Nevada traffic incident response agencies to adopt.

Whereas: public safety is the highest priority and must be maintained, especially if injuries or hazardous materials are involved. The quality of life in the state of Nevada is heavily dependent upon the free movement of people, vehicles and commerce. DPS and NDOT share the responsibility for achieving and maintaining the degree of order necessary to make this free movement possible. Both agencies have the responsibility to reduce the risk to responders, secondary crashes and delays associated with incidents, roadway maintenance, construction and enforcement.

The following operating standards are based on the philosophy that our roadways will not be closed or restricted any longer than is absolutely necessary.

Be it resolved: Roadways will be cleared of disabled vehicles, spilled cargo and debris as soon as it is safe to do so. It is understood that damage to vehicles or cargo may occur as a result of clearing the roadway on an urgent basis. While reasonable attempts to avoid such damage shall be taken, the highest priority is restoring traffic to normal conditions.

Department of Public Safety Responsibilities

Members of the DPS who respond to the scene of traffic incidents will make clearing the travel portion of the roadway a high priority. When an investigation is required, it will be conducted in the most expedient manner possible considering the severity of the incident. Non-critical portions of the investigation may be delayed, when appropriate, until lighter traffic conditions allow completion of those tasks. DPS will close only those lanes absolutely necessary to conduct the investigation safely.

DPS may coordinate with NDOT representatives to set up appropriate traffic control, establish alternate routes (when available), expedite the safe movement of traffic in the queue at the scene, and restore the roadway to normal flow as soon as possible.

Whenever practical, crashes on controlled-access roadways will be relocated to off-ramps, frontage roads, collector distributors, crash investigation sites, or other safe areas for completion of investigations. Tow trucks will be requested as soon as it is evident that they are needed to clear the roadway. DPS has reviewed and updated their Tow Rotation Contract to include provisions that require recognized competency levels in TIM training for all operators in the area of traffic incident management. The Contract also requires responding tow operators to select equipment that is appropriate in size, capacity and design capable of providing safe, quick clearance of roadway incidents.

DPS along with NDOT will use the most appropriate technologies and approved methods for expedient investigation of crashes or incident scenes without compromising the quality of investigation.

Department of Transportation Responsibilities

NDOT, when requested by DPS or other law enforcement or emergency agency, will respond and deploy resources to major traffic incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Each NDOT District will develop and implement notification and response procedures to meet the goal of providing initial traffic control within 30 minutes of notification in urban areas during normal working hours and 60 minutes after hours and on weekends. In rural Districts, NDOT and DPS agree to support local TIM Open Roads Agreements (ORA).

When appropriate resources are available, NDOT, in coordination with DPS, will: 1) upgrade scene safety by providing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices (e.g. arrow boards, advanced warning signs, and DMS); 2) determine appropriate detour routes (when available); and/or 3) discuss incident clearance strategies on a scene by scene basis.

Pursuant to MUTCD guidelines, NDOT will provide fully compliant temporary work zone traffic controls at major incidents expected to exceed 24 hours to ensure a safe incident scene for all responders and the motoring public.

When requested by DPS, NDOT will deploy the necessary heavy equipment and resources to reopen the roadway if clearance of the travel lanes is being blocked, or if the task is beyond the capabilities of the tow service on scene. If cargo or spilled loads (non-hazardous) are involved, NDOT will make every effort to assist in the relocation of the materials in the shortest possible time, using available resources.

NDOT and DPS will continually work together to ensure that the needs of motorists on our highways are being met in the most professional, safe, and efficient manner.

THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED THAT:

Traffic incidents will be cleared from the Nevada roadways as soon as possible. It is the goal of all traffic incident response agencies that all incidents be cleared from the travel portion of the roadway within two hours or less.

DPS and NDOT will evaluate and continually update and modify operating policies, procedures, rules and standards to ensure that they are consistent with this Open Roads Policy (ORP).

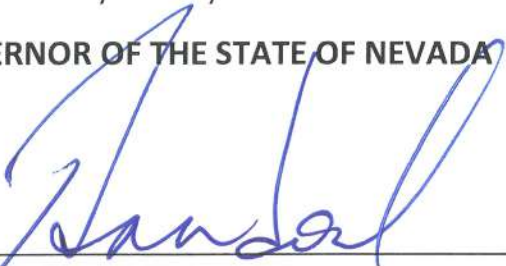
DPS and NDOT will ensure that all management, operational and response personnel are aware of and trained in the procedures and intention of this ORP.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT:

Both agencies will actively solicit and enlist other state, county, local public/private agencies or political subdivisions to endorse and become party to this Open Roads Policy of the State of Nevada through a local ORA.

In witness whereof, each party hereto has caused this document to be executed in its name and on its behalf by the duly authorized Chief Executives of these state agencies.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA



BRIAN SANDOVAL

SEAL OF NEVADA

NEVADA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEVADA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Director, Rudy Malfabon



Director, James Wright

Date: 4-5-17

Date: 4-25-17

ENDORSED, AGREED AND EXECUTED THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL, 2017.