



STATE OF NEVADA OPEN ROADS POLICY



Quick Clearance for Safety and Mobility

“Whenever a travel lane is closed or partially blocked by a crash or traffic incident, law enforcement, transportation and local public safety agencies shall reopen the roadway as soon as possible, in accordance with Nevada Statewide Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Guidelines.”



Nevada Open Roads Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

This agreement by and between the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) 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 following a motor vehicle crash or incident on Nevada's roadways. 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 reopen the roadway as soon as possible, in accordance with Nevada Statewide TIM Guidelines. This policy also establishes a timeframe for safe and quick clearance, 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 of achieving and maintaining the degree of order necessary to make this free movement possible. Both agencies have the responsibility to reduce risk to responders and reduce secondary crashes and delays associated with incidents, roadway maintenance, construction, and enforcement. Both agencies agree to participate in Nevada's TIM Coalitions throughout the state of Nevada, to continue to improve ongoing responder safety through the implementation of statewide TIM Guidelines.

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

Be it resolved: Roadways will be cleared of disabled vehicles, spilled cargo, and debris as soon as it is safe to do so. "A person involved in unified command who provides for the removal of a vehicle, the cargo of a vehicle or other property pursuant to NRS 484B.443 subsection 2: Is not liable for any loss of or damage to the vehicle, the contents of the vehicle, the cargo or the property that is removed; and All costs incurred under the provisions of subsection 2 must be borne by the owner of the vehicle, cargo or property. While reasonable attempts to avoid such damage shall be taken, the highest priority is restoring traffic to normal conditions."



I. Department of Public Safety Responsibilities

Members of the Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division (DPS-NHP) who respond to the scene of traffic incidents will make clearing the travel lanes of the roadway a high priority. When the severity of a crash warrants an investigation, it will be conducted with the most expedient tools and resources available. Non-critical segments of the investigation may be delayed, when appropriate, until lighter traffic conditions allow completion of those tasks. DPS-NHP will close only those travel lanes necessary to conduct the investigation safely.

- a) DPS-NHP 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.
- b) Whenever practical, DPS-NHP will advocate that crashes on controlled-access roadways be relocated to off-ramps, frontage roads, collector distributors, crash investigation sites, or other safe areas for completion of investigations.
- c) DPS-NHP will enforce a mandatory requirement for towing operators throughout the state of Nevada to attend and receive a certificate for the Nevada specific four-hour TIM Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2) training to encourage coordination with other first responders at the scene of a crash. Enforcement will be overseen through compliance with the statewide Towing Manual. The Towing Manual also requires responding tow operators to select equipment that is appropriate in size, capacity, and design capable of providing safe, and quick clearance of roadway incidents.
- d) DPS-NHP, along with NDOT, will use the most appropriate technologies and approved methods to expedite investigation of crashes or incident scenes without compromising the quality of investigation.



II. Department of Transportation Responsibilities

DPS-NHP and NDOT 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.

- a) NDOT, when requested by DPS-NHP or another law enforcement or emergency response agency, will deploy resources to major traffic incidents 24 hours a day as soon as resources are available. 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, DPS-NHP and NDOT agree to support local TIM Open Roads Agreements (ORA) with local law enforcement, fire, and towing.
- b) When appropriate resources are available, NDOT, in coordination with DPS-NHP, will: 1) upgrade scene safety by providing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices (e.g., arrow boards, advanced warning signs, and Dynamic Message Signs (DMS); 2) determine appropriate detour routes (when available); and/or 3) discuss incident clearance strategies on a scene-by-scene basis.
- c) Pursuant to Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines, NDOT will provide fully compliant temporary work zone traffic controls at major incidents, expeditiously, to ensure a safe incident scene for all responders and themotoring public.
- d) When requested by DPS-NHP, 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.
- e) At incidents / crashes where hazmat spills are involved, NDOT will enforce their hazmat policy, activating their hazmat clean-up contractor to assess the scene and, working through Unified Command, NDOT will assure that the scene is mitigated as quickly and effectively as possible.



THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED THAT:

Consistent with the MUTCD Guidelines and the Nevada TIM Guidelines, it is the goal of incident responder agencies that ALL incidents be cleared from all travel lanes of the roadway as expediently as possible. Performance measurement goals are based on the severity of the crash:

- Minor Incidents (property damage only) – roadway clearance goal is less than 30 minutes
- Intermediate Incidents (injury) – roadway clearance goal is less than 60 minutes,
- and Major Incidents (fatal) – roadway clearance goal is less than 120 minutes

DPS-NHP and NDOT will evaluate and continually update and modify the Statewide TIM Guidelines, Joint Operations Policy Statement (JOPS), operating policies, procedures, rules, and standards to ensure that they are consistent with this Open Roads Policy (ORP).

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

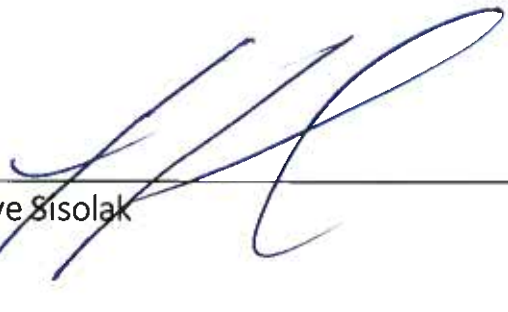
IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT:

Both agencies will actively solicit and enlist other state, county, local public/private agencies, or political subdivisions to endorse and become party to this ORP of the State of Nevada through signing local Open Road Agreements (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



Steve Sisolak


10-20-21

Date

SEAL OF NEVADA

NEVADA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEVADA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Director, Kristina Swallow



Director, George Togliatti

Date 10/20/21

Date 10/20/21

ENDORSED, AGREED AND EXECUTED THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021.