

# Distracted Driving

## What Is Distracted Driving?

With more portable technology now than ever, driver distractions have risen to unprecedented numbers. But cell phones aren't the only problem.

Drivers can be distracted by eating and drinking, grooming, tuning the radio or even talking to passengers. Anything that takes a driver's attention from the road is a potential hazard.

There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual — taking your eyes off the road
- Manual — taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive — taking your mind off driving

While all distractions can endanger drivers' safety, texting is the most alarming because it involves all three types.

Other distracting activities include:

- Using a cell phone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a PDA or navigation system
- Watching a video
- Changing the radio station, CD, or Mp3 player.

## It's Deadly

- In 2009, more than 5,000 people died and almost half a million injuries occurred in the U.S. simply because people were not paying attention to the road. Conversations can wait. The chances of causing a crash that could ruin lives is just too great.
- The proportion of drivers reportedly distracted at the time of the fatal crashes increased from 10 percent in 2005 to 16 percent in 2009.
- About 89 percent of Americans had a cell phone in 2009. In a national survey, 77 percent reported they talk on the phone while driving at least some of the time. (NHTSA)

Visit [distraction.gov](http://distraction.gov) for more.



## No Texting & Hands-Free Calls



### Eyes on the Road - Toward Zero Fatalities

Texting, accessing the internet and hand-held cell phone use while driving are against the law in Nevada effective Oct. 1, 2011. You may talk on a phone using a hands-free device.

The fines are \$50 for the first offense in seven years, \$100 for the second and \$250 for the third and subsequent offenses. Fines are subject to doubling if the offense occurs in a work zone. The first offense is not treated as a moving violation.

Exceptions include:

- Any person reporting a medical emergency, a safety hazard or criminal activity.
- Drivers using a voice-operated navigation system affixed to the vehicle or those riding in autonomous vehicles.
- Drivers using citizen band or other two-way radios that have a separate, hand-held microphone and require a license.
- Law enforcement officers, firefighters or emergency medical personnel acting within the scope of their employment.
- Utility workers responding to an outage or emergency and using devices provided by the company.
- Amateur radio operators providing communications services during an emergency or disaster.

## Young Drivers At Risk

Young drivers are more at risk of distracted driving—especially those under 20 years of age. Nevada has two important restrictions on drivers under 18.

- Drivers age 16 or 17 may not transport passengers under 18, except for immediate family members, for the first six months after receiving their full license. (NRS 483.2523)
- Drivers age 16 or 17 may not drive between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless they are traveling to or from a scheduled event such as work or school events. (NRS 484B.907)

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# Nevada Teen Driving

## Driver Education

Nearly all Nevada beginning drivers under 18 must complete a driver education course from a public school or a private professional driving school. Exceptions are not made for home-schooled students. You can enroll at age 15. The course is not required for an instruction permit. It is required for a license.

## School Attendance

Beginning drivers under 18 must submit a Certification of Attendance (DMV 301) form to prove they are meeting Nevada school attendance standards.

## Instruction Permit Requirements

You must be 15½ years old and present proof of your name, date of birth, Social Security number and Nevada residential address.

Your parent or guardian must be present to sign a financial responsibility statement.

You must pass the vision and knowledge tests and pay the licensing and testing fees.



## Are You Ready?

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds.

Make sure you're ready before you take the keys.

## Driver License Requirements

While driving with an instruction permit, you must have a licensed driver 21 years or older, who has been licensed for at least one year, seated next to you at all times.

You must complete a minimum of 50 hours of behind the wheel experience, 10 hours of which must be in darkness, and complete the official DMV log of the dates and times. If a 30-hour driver education course cannot be completed, you must complete 100 hours of experience.

To qualify for a full driver license, you must also:

- Be 16 years of age
- Hold the Instruction Permit for a minimum of six months
- Have no at-fault accidents, moving violation convictions or any type of drug or alcohol conviction within six months of applying.

## Skills Test & Getting Your License

You must be at least 16 years old to apply for a driver license. Go on the DMV's website or call to schedule a skills test when you have met all of the requirements. Be sure to bring:

- Instruction Permit
- Parent or Guardian
- Driver Education Certificate (if required)
- Beginning Driver Experience Log (DLD-130)
- Vehicle with Valid Registration and Insurance

The examiner will inspect the vehicle for safety and give you instructions on where to drive. Serious traffic violations result in automatic failure. Examiners use a point system for other aspects of performance.

If you fail, the examiner will explain why and instruct you on how to take the test again. If you pass, you will have a new photo taken for your full license.

## No Texting & Hands-Free Calls Eyes on the Road - Toward Zero Fatalities

Texting, accessing the internet and hand-held cell phone use while driving are illegal in Nevada. Eating or even changing the radio are also dangerous for inexperienced drivers.



## Driving Restrictions Passengers

Young drivers cannot transport any passenger under the age of 18, except for immediate family members, for the first six months after licensing.

## Curfew

Drivers under 18 may not drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless they are traveling to or from a scheduled event such as work or a school event. This curfew remains in effect until age 18.

## License Cancellation/Suspension

Driving is a privilege, not a right. The parent or guardian who signed the financial responsibility statement for a driver under 18 years of age may cancel the license or permit by completing the DMV Minor Affidavit, Form DLD 38.

Courts can suspend your current or future driving privileges for any of the same reasons as adult licenses and also for alcohol/drug convictions, firearms violations or habitual truancy.

Schools can suspend driving privileges for truancy.

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# Bicycles

## Share the Road

Bicyclists have the same rights and the same responsibilities as other drivers in Nevada. Cyclists must ride to the right unless they are preparing to turn left or are able to match the speed of traffic. Cyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals and use hand signals for turns and stops.

## Rules for Motorists

- When passing, you must move into an adjacent lane to the left if possible. If not, you must pass with at least 3 feet of clearance between your car and the bicycle. Safe passing is the motorist's responsibility. (NRS 484B.270 effective 10/1/2011)
- Yield to cyclists at intersections as you would for other vehicles and pedestrians.
- Do not drive or park in designated bicycle lanes or paths unless you are turning or in an emergency.
- Extend special courtesy and care to inexperienced riders, especially children.



## Rules for Cyclists

- Always ride on the right and as far to the right as practicable. Cyclists may ride two abreast. Ride single file in traffic for courtesy.
- Obey all signs and signals. Teach them to children.
- Use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Ride at least three feet away from parked cars.
- LISTEN for cars approaching from the side or rear.
- Don't follow cars closely or ride in their blind spot.
- Always be prepared to stop.
- Check your bike's mechanical condition before every ride. Brakes are required by law.
- It is illegal to cling to another vehicle.

## Night Riding

See and be seen. Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective clothing at night. Bicycles ridden at night must have:

- A white lamp in the front visible from at least 500 feet away.
- A red tail reflector visible in a vehicle's low beams from 300 feet away.
- Reflective material on the sides of the bike visible in low beams from at least 600 feet away or a lamp visible from both sides from 500 feet away. (NRS 484B.783)

## Get the Correct Sizes

Big bikes and helmets to "grow into" are not safe.

Children: Sit on the seat with knees straight and feet flat on the ground.



Adults: Sit on the seat with knee nearly straight when foot is on the pedal in its lowest position.

## Insist on Helmets

Bike helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent when worn correctly. (NHTSA)

- Use foam pads inside to fit the helmet snugly so it doesn't move on the head.



- The helmet should fit low on your forehead so that two fingers fit between it and your eyebrows. Another way to check is to put the helmet on your head and look up. If you can't see your helmet, it is too far back.



- Adjust the two side straps so they meet in a "V" right under each ear.
- Adjust the chin strap snugly. Make it tight enough so the helmet pulls down when you open your mouth.
- Replace a helmet which has been in a crash.

## Local Resources

Nevada has an active bicycling community devoted both to safety and to enjoyment of the unique riding experiences in the Silver State.

### Bicycle Nevada

Information on highways, tours, events, the Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board and State Bicycle Plan.

(775) 888-RIDE

[www.bicyclenevada.com](http://www.bicyclenevada.com)



### Nevada Office of Traffic Safety

Bicycle education courses and instructor training.

(775) 684-7479 | [www.ots.state.nv.us](http://www.ots.state.nv.us)

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# Pedestrians

Pedestrian safety is the responsibility of both the pedestrian and the motorist. Both cause crashes!

Nevada consistently ranks among the 10 worst states for pedestrian fatalities. Nearly 90 percent of pedestrians and drivers involved in fatal crashes are local residents, not visitors!

(NHTSA and UNLV TRC)

## Crosswalks

A crosswalk exists at any intersection, whether there are pavement markings or not. (NRS 484A.065)

## Drivers

- Must exercise due care to avoid a collision with a pedestrian at all times. (NRS 484B.280)
- Must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. (NRS 484B.283)
- Must yield at all times to a blind person using a white cane or service animal. (NRS 484B.290)
- Must stop or slow down before passing another vehicle stopped in a travel lane until the driver has determined whether that vehicle has stopped for a pedestrian. (NRS 484B.283)
- Must, in the presence of a school crossing guard, wait for all persons including the guard to completely clear the road before proceeding. (NRS 484B.350)

## Pedestrians

- Must use the sidewalk and the nearest crosswalk, pedestrian bridge or tunnel when possible.
- Must obey official traffic-control devices.
- Must stay in the right-hand half of the crosswalk whenever practicable.
- Must walk on the left side of the street facing traffic if no sidewalk is available.
- Must not suddenly walk into the path of a vehicle so that it is impossible for the vehicle to yield.
- May not cross an intersection diagonally unless the intersection is specifically designed for this. (NRS 484B.283 through 484B.297)

## Signals



**STEADY HAND** means do not enter the intersection.

**FLASHING HAND** means do not enter but those in the crosswalk may finish.

**WALKING PERSON** means you may enter if it is safe. Look left, right and left again.

## Children are Not Small Adults!

Children enjoy walking, riding bikes and playing outside. They can understand basic safety rules but they don't have the judgment to cope with traffic until at least age 10. Some points to keep in mind:

- Children assume that if they see the driver, the driver sees them.
- They can't judge speed and think cars can stop instantly.
- They are shorter than adults and can't see over cars, bushes and other objects.
- They often act before thinking and may not do what parents or drivers expect.



## Safety Tips for Walkers

- **Walk on the Sidewalk.** If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk in the road, walk on the left facing traffic.
- **Cross at Intersections.** Most people are hit by cars when they cross the road at places other than intersections. Walk the extra distance! Use marked crosswalks and obey the signals.
- **Look Left, Right and Left Again.** Stop at the curb and look left, right and left again for traffic. Stopping at the curb signals drivers that you intend to cross.
- **See and Be Seen**
  - Drivers need to see you to avoid you.
  - Stay out of the driver's blind spot.
  - Make eye contact with drivers.
  - Wear bright clothing even during the day and reflective clothing at night.
  - Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark.

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# Buckle Up!

## The Laws of Nevada

Nevada Revised Statutes require front and rear seat occupants of almost all passenger vehicles to wear safety belts or ride in an approved child restraint system. (NRS 484D.495 and 484B.157)

## The Laws of Physics

If you crash or slam on your brakes, your car comes to a sudden stop. But you will keep moving until you, too, are stopped – by the windshield, dashboard, pavement or seat belt.



## Air Bags



Air bags are more effective when you're buckled up and can be dangerous if you're not. You should be seated at least 10" away from the air bag as measured from the center of the steering wheel to your breastbone.

Air bags should be turned off only for those with certain medical conditions, those who cannot sit 10" away and when transporting young children in the front seat.

Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an air bag! Children under 12 should ride in the back.

Expectant mothers should buckle up and leave the air bag on. Never place the lap belt above or on your belly.



## Did you know?



Seven of ten child safety seats are installed improperly.

Free inspections and advice are offered throughout Nevada. Call 866-SEAT-CHECK or visit [www.seatcheck.org](http://www.seatcheck.org) to find one in your area.

## Child Seat Law

Any child less than 6 years of age who weighs less than 60 pounds must ride in an approved child restraint system. (NRS 484B.157)

## Best Practices

Keep children in the back seat until at least age 12. Select a car seat based on your child's age and size and use it every time.

### Birth – 12 Months



Use a rear-facing car seat through age 1 and until your baby reaches the seat manufacturer's height and weight limits.

### 1 – 3 Years



Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. Then use a forward-facing toddler seat with a harness until your toddler outgrows that seat's limits.

### 4 – 7 Years



Once your child has outgrown the seat with a harness, use a booster seat until he or she is large enough for seat belts. Stay in the back seat.

### 8 – 12 Years



Use safety belts once they fit properly. The lap belt should lie across the thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should not cross the neck or face.

## Seat Belt Tips

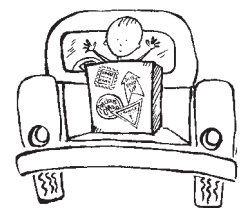
Never use just a lap belt across a child sitting in a booster seat designed for shoulder belts.

Never use pillows, books, or towels to boost a child. They can slide around and hit the occupant.

Never put a shoulder belt behind anyone's arm or back because it eliminates the protection for the upper part of the body and increases the risk of severe injury in a crash.

## Kids Aren't Cargo!

Passengers under 18 may not ride in the back of a pickup or flatbed truck. This does not apply, however, to farming and ranching activity, parades or to camper shells or slide-in campers. (NRS 484B.160)



kids aren't cargo

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# Abróchese su cinturón

## Las leyes de Nevada

La ley requiere los ocupantes de asientos delanteros y traseros de casi todos vehículos llevan cinturones de seguridad o viajan en un sistema aprobado de restricción de niño. (NRS 484D.495 and 484B.157)

## Las leyes de la física

Si usted choca o da un frenazo, su carro viene a una parada repentina. Pero usted seguirá moviéndose hasta que sea parado también – por la parabrisas, el tablero de mando, el pavimento o el cinturón de seguridad.



## Las bolsas de aire



Las bolsas de aire están más efectivas cuando usted es abrochado y peligroso si no es abrochado. Debe estar sentado por lo menos 10 pulgadas lejos de la bolsa de aire a su esternón.

Las bolsas de aire se deben desactivar solamente para los con ciertas condiciones médicas, los que no puedan sentarse el 10 pulgadas lejos y los que deban transportar a niños jóvenes en el asiento delantero.

Un asiento de seguridad instalando mirando hacia atrás NUNCA se debe colocar delante de una bolsa de aire. Los niños menos de 12 años deben viajar en la parte de atrás.



Las mujeres embarazadas deben abrochar el cinturón de seguridad y dejar la bolsa de aire activada. Nunca coloque el cinturón de regazo sobre o en su vientre.

## ¿Sabías que?



7 de cada 10 niños que usan asientos de seguridad no llevan las correas debidamente abrochadas. Llame 866-SEAT-CHECK or visite [www.seatcheck.org](http://www.seatcheck.org) por una inspección gratis cerca de usted.

## La ley de Nevada

Cualquier niño menos de 6 años y que pesa menos de 60 libras tiene que viajar en un sistema aprobado de seguridad para niños. (NRS 484B.157)

## Las prácticas adecuadas

Todos los niños de 12 años o menores deben viajar en el asiento trasero. Escoja un asiento de seguridad que corresponda a la edad y el tamaño de su hijo. Uselo todo el tiempo.

### Nacimiento – 12 meses



Use un asiento de seguridad instalado mirando hacia atrás hasta que su hijo llegue a los límites de peso y altura del asiento permitidos por el fabricante.

### 1 – 3 años



Mantenga a sus niños en asientos mirando hacia atrás, por cuánto tiempo sea posible. Después use un asiento mirando hacia delante con un arnés hasta que su hijo llegue a los límites de ese asiento.

### 4 – 7 años



Una vez que el asiento con arnés le quede pequeño al niño, use un asiento elevado "Booster" asegurado con un cinturón de seguridad.

### 8 – 12 años



Use los cinturones de seguridad una vez que queden bien. Los cinturones de regazo deben estar bien ajustados sobre la parte superior de los muslos, no el estómago. Los cinturones de hombro no deben cruzar sobre el cuello o la cara.

## Cosas para recordar

- Nunca use solamente una correa de regazo a través un niño que se sienta en un asiento elevado diseñado para las correas del hombro.
- Nunca use las almohadas, los libros, o las toallas para levantar un niño. Pueden resbalar alrededor.
- Nunca coloque una correa del hombro detrás del brazo o la espalda de cualquier persona. Esto elimina la protección para la parte superior del cuerpo y aumenta el riesgo de una lesión severa.

## ¡Los niños no son carga!

Los pasajeros menores de 18 años no deben viajar en la parte de atrás de camionetas ni de camiones de plataforma. La ley no se aplica, sin embargo, a las actividades de agricultura y ganadería, a los desfiles ni las autocaravanas "campers". (NRS 484B.160)

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# DUI Laws



## Illegal Per Se

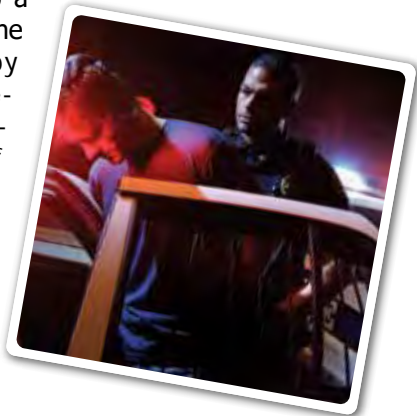
"Illegal per se" means that the operation of a vehicle by a person with a blood alcohol content (BAC) at or above the legally defined threshold constitutes an offense of impaired driving in and of itself. Nevada's blood alcohol limit is .08 and .04 for commercial drivers. Note that these limits are only guides. Drivers can be arrested and convicted for DUI with a lower BAC reading or for driving under the influence of controlled or prohibited substances.

(NRS 484C.110)

## Chemical Tests

Failure to submit to a breath, blood or urine test as directed by a police officer results in a driver's license revocation of at least one year. A blood sample can be drawn involuntarily if the officer obtains a warrant or court order.

(NRS 484C.150-250)



# Call 911 or to report impaired drivers

## How to Spot a Drunk Driver and What to Do

These warning signs should be your signal to take down a license plate number and vehicle description to report to the proper authorities.

Do not attempt to stop or follow the vehicle.

- Weaving, swerving, wide turns, straddling lanes
- Sudden stops, delayed starts
- Driving too slowly
- Driving with headlights off at night
- Rapid acceleration or deceleration
- Turning abruptly or illegally
- Following too closely
- Appearing to be drunk – drinking in vehicle, face close to windshield, lack of peripheral vision

Below are penalties for a typical DUI first offense. Penalties for subsequent convictions are harsher. A third DUI within seven years or a DUI which involves death or substantial bodily harm are felony offenses.

## DUI Penalties

### Criminal

- Arrest
- Vehicle Impounded
- Two days to six months in jail or community service
- Fine \$400 to \$1,000
- Chemical Test Fee \$60
- DUI School or Substance Abuse Treatment
- Victim Impact Panel

### Driver License

- Ignition Interlock in Vehicle or License Revocation
- \$121 Reinstatement Fee
- \$35 Victims Compensation Civil Penalty
- \$42.25 Driver License Fee + \$26 Testing Fee
- DMV Tests – Vision, Knowledge, possibly Skills
- SR-22 Certificate of Liability Insurance required for three years

A driver license revocation is a separate action from any criminal case. Motorists may appeal a revocation through the DMV Office of Administrative Hearings.

License reinstatement is not automatic, even if the criminal charges were reduced or dismissed. You must meet all reinstatement requirements and apply for a license to regain your driving privilege.

A revocation which is not reinstated will remain on your record indefinitely and you will not be able to obtain a driver license in any state.

## Your Record

Records of a DUI arrest and/or conviction remain in criminal history files for the rest of your life. If you are convicted of a felony DUI, you will be charged with a felony in any subsequent DUI arrest.

Convictions and license revocations remain on your full DMV record for the rest of your life. A DUI conviction may show on your driver history for up to ten years. A license revocation is reported until the driving privilege is reinstated.

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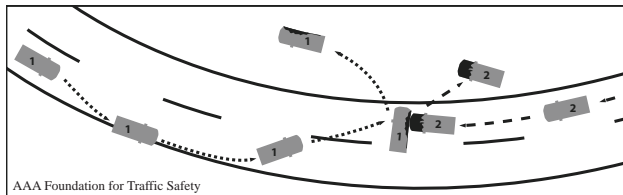
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Updated October 2018

# 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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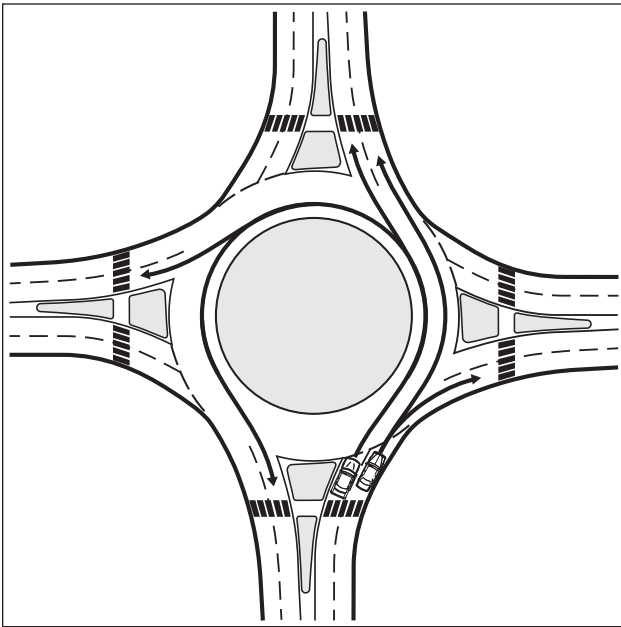
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# Roundabouts

Roundabouts are one-way circular intersections in which traffic flows around a center island without stop signs or signals.

Traffic enters and exits through right turns only and speeds are reduced, resulting in a reduction in the number and severity of crashes.



## How to Drive in a Roundabout

- As you approach a multi-lane roundabout, choose which lane to use as you would for any other intersection. Use the left lane to turn left, complete a U-turn or go straight. Use the right lane to turn right or go straight.
- Yield. Wait for a gap in traffic. Those in the roundabout have the right-of-way, as do pedestrians and bicyclists.
- If the intersection is clear, it is legal to enter the roundabout without stopping as long as all traffic laws are followed.
- Travel counterclockwise only. Do not pass vehicles or bicycles.
- When inside, do not stop for vehicles waiting to enter.
- Large trucks and trailers are allowed to let their rear wheels travel on the truck apron around the center island. Other vehicles are not.
- If you are in the inside lane and miss your exit, you must continue around until you reach the exit again.
- Use your right turn signal when exiting.

## Walking and Bicycling

### Pedestrians

The use of roundabouts can offer challenges to pedestrians, especially the sight-impaired. Pedestrians should always be cautious as there is no dedicated signal or break in traffic.

- Always walk around the perimeter of the roundabout. Never cross to the central island.
- Use cross walks and splitter islands if available. If there is no marked crosswalk, cross about one vehicle length away from the circulatory roadway.
- Always look and listen for approaching traffic. Even though pedestrians have the right-of-way, satisfy yourself that vehicles have recognized your presence and right to cross.

### Bicyclists

Low-speed, single-lane roundabouts should not present much difficulty to bicyclists. Higher speed, multi-lane roundabouts may intimidate even a seasoned bicyclist.

- If you are comfortable riding in traffic, claim the entire lane by riding near the center of the lane. Ride at the speed of traffic to discourage cars from wanting to pass you.
- Use a hand signal when exiting the roundabout.
- If you are unsure about riding in the roundabout, dismount and walk your bike on the sidewalk and crosswalks.

## Benefits

In a traditional traffic intersection, there are 32 points of conflict in which two vehicles may collide.

Roundabouts have only eight conflicts, greatly reducing the potential for crashes. The circulating movement also nearly eliminates the potential for high-speed left turn or head-on collisions.

Visit [www.nevadadot.com/roundabout](http://www.nevadadot.com/roundabout) for more.



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