

Right of way: Pedestrian safety enforcement activities this week

University of Nevada, Reno police pedestrian safety awareness campaign launches this week



University of Nevada, Reno police officers interact with University student.

RENO, Nev. –Officers will conduct traffic enforcement in areas heavily used by pedestrian traffic, especially North Virginia and North Sierra Streets, as part of Joining Forces, a statewide multijurisdictional law enforcement pedestrian safety effort during the week of Aug. 24.

“There are so many opportunities for vehicle versus pedestrian interaction on the streets surrounding our campus,” Adam Garcia, University chief of police, said. “We’ve been fortunate so far that injuries and fatalities have not been a common occurrence.”

In the past year, University police officers have issued 61 citations for pedestrian crosswalk violations in the area immediately surrounding the main campus. A pedestrian sustained minor injuries in a 2014 incident.

“With our new students arriving and walking to and from residence halls and other residences, we want to make sure motorists are aware of crosswalks and the laws regarding pedestrian right of way,” Garcia said. “At the same time, we ask pedestrians to practice safe behaviors such as using marked crosswalks and taking advantage of stutter flashes where available. Pedestrians should also avoid distractions, pay attention to traffic and obey traffic laws.”

Garcia said motorists and pedestrians around the University should heed the following safety tips:

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks
- Observe stop signs and signals
- Don’t pass other drivers who stop at crosswalks
- Make eye contact with pedestrians and motorists
- Use crosswalk signals

- Scan sidewalks to see if pedestrians are preparing to leave the curb
- Observe posted speed limits
- No texting while driving

University Police Services is a fully functional law enforcement agency. Officers have full police powers and are certified under the laws of the state of Nevada. They perform the same function as officers from city, county and state agencies; enforcing all local, state and federal laws and ordinances within the jurisdiction of the University of Nevada, Reno, which includes the main campus as well as other properties owned and operated by the University. They also have the authority to exercise police powers on University-owned and/or supervised sites, such as fraternity houses, sorority houses and adjacent properties.

Officers patrol, walking and biking around campus, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and provide escorts upon request. The department also has standing agreements with other local law enforcement agencies giving officers authority to exercise police power. The University Police Department does all they can to assist in appropriate investigations by other agencies.

For more information about [Nevada Joining Forces](#), please contact Commander Todd Renwick 775-784-4013.

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Photo Cutline: University of Nevada, Reno police officers interact with University student.

Nevada's land-grant university founded in 1874, the University of Nevada, Reno ranks in the top tier of best national universities by U.S. News and World Report and is steadily growing in enrollment, excellence and reputation. The University serves nearly 21,000 students. Part of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University is home to the University of Nevada School of Medicine, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Wolf Pack Athletics. Through a commitment to world-improving research, student success and outreach benefitting the communities and businesses of Nevada, the University has impact across the state and around the world. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.

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