

Way to Go



FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL COMES TO RESCUE

Your car dies on a busy street during rush hour. As you peek under the hood, passing cars veer close and you're left with nothing to do but wait, hoping to not be hit. But then, a savior comes to the rescue. For the Rosenthals of Las Vegas, that hero was Freeway Service Patrol's own **Jason Caudill** (pictured above), who put out safety cones, blocked the vehicle from danger until a tow truck arrived and even offered water.

"Thank you, Jason," the Rosenthals wrote. "You truly saved us!"

RVer RECREATES TO BETTER ROADS

Our state roads are vital for transportation, safety and commerce. They also are the lifeline of our tourism industry; appreciated by our state's over 50 million annual visitors.

Take, for instance, one seasoned traveler who enjoys touring the state in his RV. He sends thanks to all NDOT team members for paving the road to great Nevada travel.

"I want to thank all members of the Nevada Department of Transportation for the best highways in the western states...No other state even comes close to the great roads in Nevada," Bill Dunlap said.

SMOOTH SKIES

The NDOT aviation division has long taken state employees to the skies for efficient and timely state business travel. Behind the important travel planning is Linda Heeg, who schedules all passengers, including Governor Kenny Guinn.

"Linda goes above and beyond," said a letter signed by the Governor.



THANKS TO CREWS 240, 251, 253, 255

When damage was seen on an Interstate 80 Reno bridge leased as airspace by a convenience store, department employees rushed to ensure public safety, even though the bridge building is not owned or maintained by NDOT. *Assistant Chief Bridge Engineer Marc Grunert, P.E. (above), inspected damage while crews assisted with inspection and traffic control.*

"The guys did an outstanding job. It's not our structure, but they went to help with a problem that could have endangered the public," District 2 Engineer Thor Dyson explained.

Some of the same dedicated team members responded the following night to a downed power line over I-80 in Sparks.

Welcome to NDOT

Linda Barnard, Carson
Deborah Block, Ely
Everett Bradley, Austin
Michael McCutcheon, Reno
Maci McLaughlin, Tonopah
James Velasco, Las Vegas
Brian Devlin, Las Vegas
Matthew Furedy, Carson
Clair Kester, Las Vegas
William Lear, Ruby Valley
Jesse Norcutt, Winnemucca
William Robinson, Las Vegas
Michael Shanahan, Battle Mountain
Jeremy Voels, Las Vegas
Todd Woffinden, Wendover

Thanks for Serving!

Michael Darragh, 24 years, Carson City
Edwin Kay, 16 years, Glendale
John Mariluch, 27 years, Ely
Daniel Sanchez, 30 years, Las Vegas
Victor Turner, 28 years, Las Vegas
Anita Boucher, 19 years, Carson City
Andrew Marich, 30 years, Elko
Thomas Sorhouet, 29 years, Tonopah
Margaret Okelberry, 19 years, Las Vegas



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LET IT SNOW

NDOT Dresses for Winter Weather Duty

Winter weather can dress Nevada roads in a sheet of water or snow. And, as every year, Nevada Department of Transportation crews are suiting up and blazing trails to safer winter roads with effective, money-saving expertise and technology.

DISTRICT 1. Water and Snow.

In District 1, the fight begins in Mt. Charleston, where sanders and snow blowers stand ready for the nearly two feet of snow needing to be cleared up to 10 times each year. Alamo, Panaca and Mountain Springs also have to be cleared.

And, there are other natural concerns in the district. "Flooding is what gets us. It's desert country, so it all runs down," Maintenance Engineer Joe Martinez said. While he credits a strong drainage infrastructure, Martinez explained that flood waters still have to run off. "The main thing is to close roads and clean up afterwards," he stated, crediting crews for safe, efficient water removal and traffic control.



Maintenance Supervisor Tom Lumpkin tests salt content of brine.

DISTRICT 2. Ice and Snow.

Across District 2, lines and leaks have been repaired, road brine and salt produced and snow equipment moved in place for winter.

Rotary snowplows, some with 12-foot-high cutting edges, will be used on the nearly 9,000-foot Mt. Rose Summit, as well



Snow plows and sander trucks line up for winter duty.

as Spooner Summit, Kingsbury Grade and Virginia City. Other plows are multi-use workhorses allowing crews to plow in winter and haul in summer.

Another tool is brine manufactured in-house at a cost of just four cents per pound of salt used. When mixed with a 10% salt and 90% sand blend, the brine makes heavier road dirt that doesn't easily bounce off roadways. "If you can control spread patterns, you reduce your salt and sand usage," said Highway Maintenance Supervisor Tom Lumpkin.

DISTRICT 3. Wind and Snow.

Meanwhile, amid some of the state's worst winter weather, District 3 tucks magnesium chloride into its winter arsenal. The solution is sprayed from six 1,800-gallon truck bed tanks to slow roadway ice formation.

Something new is a brown sugar-like mineralized de-icer. After testing in 2004, the de-icer was mixed with sand and effectively used last winter to melt ice at temperatures to 5 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Once we finish anti-icing before a storm," Highway Maintenance Manager Mickey Dugger explained, "we put sanders and plows on the trucks and they become snow plows."

Atop Emigrant, Pequop, Adobe, Lamoille and other summits, the district's nearly 120 snowplows will then work to efficiently clear roads, while four rotary snowplows battle blowing snow that often covers winter roads.

DISTRICT 3 OFFERS A BREAK TO ELKO FIRE PROTECTION

District 3 operators help cut fire breaks in Elko area's worst fire season

Amid a firestorm that erupted in Elko County this summer, District 3 crews assisted to put down the area's worst documented fire season.

A perfect storm of whipping winds, humid evenings and vegetation from two wet springs burned close to 1 million acres, more than half of Nevada's 2006 charred land, in Elko County this summer.

District 3 operators worked three days on three department motor graders and other support vehicles, helping to save public and private lands by widening fire lines and access roads in advance of one of the largest fires, the 80,000-acre Suzie Fire.

"Alvin Adams and myself were checking the area due to the fire. At that point, the fire jumped I-80 and a frontage road....Adams took over a motor-grader, hurried down and cut a fire line near the active fire while myself and Crew 350 set up a road closure," Maintenance Supervisor II Phillip Mendive recounted.

After that initial emergency road closure, a cooperative effort between NDOT and Nevada Division of Forestry was developed at the request of state emergency management.

"Employees were never in imminent danger," Maintenance Supervisor Mendive explained. "However, when dealing with fire, there is every opportunity for situations to change quickly."

Similar department motor graders were used in last year's Contact and Chance Fires in the Elko area, said Assistant District 3 Engineer Mike Murphy.

As part of the volunteer Elko Fire Department Lee Engine Company, Murphy battled this summer's Elburz, Basco, Charleston Complex and Mudd Fires, and recognized how vital volunteer firefighters and inter-agency cooperation such as that between NDOT and Nevada Division of Forestry is in battling fires in sparsely-populated areas.

Murphy said NDF Regional Forester Tom Turk offered thanks to NDOT operators for needed help combating the district's devastating fire season.

Cutting Firefighters a Break

Thanks to NDOT personnel who assisted fire prevention measures on the Suzie Fire:

Elko Admin. *Alvin Adams, Pedro Mendoza, Jr.*
Crew 350 *Aaron Hand, Phillip Mendive, Gregg Thompson*

Crew 351 *Wilber Greer, Jim Hylton, Condie Stevens*
Crews 350, 351, 327, 324 provided safe road closures and traffic control during the largest fires

Winnemucca, Tonopah and Fernley crews also stood ready on department bulldozers to cut lines against the Sneekee Fire, a fire ultimately contained in wilderness area inaccessible to dozers.



In addition to work on the Suzie Fire, NDOT crews also provided traffic escort service and more during summer fires such as the Dinner Fire (pictured).



Photos courtesy of Ross Andreson, Elko Daily Free Press.

A FAREWELL TO OUR OWN



NDOT says goodbye to **Jim Pypkowski**, who passed away unexpectedly. 'Jimmy' was Crew 901's beloved assistant resident engineer, and an NDOT team member for 27 years. *He will be missed by all.*

NEW 511 NEVADA TRAVEL INFO LOGS ONTO SAFER TRAVEL

NDOT phone number and Web page puts travel information at touch of button

NDOT's new 511 travel information system logs travelers onto easier road information by phone and Internet.

The new program posts current traffic, weather, construction and road closure reports to a new 511 phone number and the www.nevadadot.com Web site.

The new number allows Nevada motorists to dial 511 toll-free, 24-hours-a-day. Designated by major sections of state road, callers select their state route for automated weather conditions, scheduled event road closures and construction updates. Hands-free, interactive voice recognition allows voice commands without the hazard of pushing number selections while driving. Amber and national security alerts can also be broadcast over the system.

The new road listings are also available under 511 Travel Info at NDOT's www.nevadadot.com Web site. On the Web site, a Nevada road map zooms into the viewer's desired state travel route, with 16 different icons detailing construction, accidents, scheduled road closure events and specific snow chain requirements.

The system allows district updates, Nevada Highway Patrol reports and other information to be entered by NDOT district operation centers.

The \$168,000 system start-up costs, as well as ongoing maintenance and long-distance charges, will be offset by the Nevada roadside sign program which saves taxpayer money by raising funds through placement of informational highway signage. "Meridian, (our project contractor), works with six other states, and AT&T is their long distance carrier, so our fees will be

less through use of lower interstate phone charges and volume discounts," NDOT Assistant Chief Operations Engineer Denise Inda explained.

In the future, Inda looks to additional improvements such as possible transit information and ability to recognize common highway nicknames.

The system improves upon two previous Web pages with separate construction and weather condition listings, and a 1-877-NV-ROADS phone number that detailed all district information, which did not permit users to quickly choose their designated road.



The 411 on 511

511 • www.nevadadot.com

24 hours

FREE to callers

Instant, area-specific state construction, closure and weather road reports/forecasts

Spoken-command function keeps drivers hands-free

Did You Know?

511 was designated after the USDOT requested a national, consistent three-digit travel information phone number from the Federal Communications Commission.

DOING THE ROUNDABOUT

Completed Roundabouts Make Fernley and Minden Safer



The Minden roundabout in front of Douglas High School and Carson Valley Swim Center (pictured) keeps motorists moving safely on SR 88. A similar Fernley roundabout was just completed to better link the

town with the nearby Fallon commerce hub. Upcoming xeriscape landscaping will pay tribute to the area's agricultural roots with native, low-maintenance plants.