

# OLDER DRIVERS

## Speaker: Bette LaCombe, Zone Coordinator of Southern Nevada for AARP Driver Safety

---

What can we do as individuals to better traffic safety in Nevada? That is the question.

Older Drivers are typically safer drivers:

- When did we become mortal?
- Tend to be more cautious
- Top violations:
  - Yielding the right of way
  - Left hand turns
- Rarely have road rage: FIDO
- What are things that happen to us as we age in regard to driving:
  - Slow down our processes including driving
  - Aren't as flexible as we used to be
  - Can't see as well - cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration
  - Can't hear as well - get a light for the dashboard
  - Reaction time slows down
  - Drugs - too many prescription drugs
- So what can be done by everyone - the Fifth E:
  - Exercise
  - Have eyes and ears checked
  - Come to an AARP Driver Safety Class

Before I talk about the AARP Driver Safety Class, I have a captive audience - NDOT and people involved with traffic safety. What can you do to help:

- Paint the lines on the road in bright white paint. Keep the markings clear.
- Finish installing the flashing yellow arrow - it works
- Talk to people about taking a class on driving safely
- Make sure that the trees don't grow over signs
- Love the rumble strip up the 95 towards Reno
- Replace the "15 mile per hour when children are present" sign with flashing lights.
- Have more walk lights with the countdown

And now about the class - Nevada AARP and Nevada's DMV worked together as a team to make the class 4 hours packed full of information. I would like to highlight some of the topics covered and in some cases give everyone a short detailed update.

- Updates driving knowledge
- Teaches defensive driving skills, such as:
  - Scanning
  - Three second rule
  - Mirror adjustment to make your blind spot smaller
  - Handling intersections
  - Reviewing Yield rules
  - Reviewing the left hand turn rules
  
- Our driving partners:
  - Trucks, Buses and RVs
  - School bus rules
  - Emergency Vehicles and the "Move over law"
  - Pedestrians
  - Motorcycles
  - Bicycles
  
- Knowing the Roads
  - Signage
  - Lights
  - Yellow versus white lines
  - Driving on interstates
  - Driving on rural roads
  
- Your car
  - How to make sure all the safety features work
  - How to sit in the driver's seat
  - Maintaining your vehicle

- When it is time to retire from driving - reality
  - Talk about how you know it is time
  - How to help others know when it is their time
  - What you can do to get around

So if you are 55 and older come to one of our classes. If you have a friend, loved one, colleague who is 55 or older, tell them about it. Tell everyone - the Fifth E

You and they will be a much safer drivers and besides that you will get a discount on your insurance.

I have given you a handout on the classes with the phone number to call. Make sure that you pass the information along to someone - everyone!

Our State Coordinator, Bill Perry, is next on the agenda and will talk about younger drivers.