



## OFFICER GUIDELINES

The primary mission of Nevada State Parks has three components:

- Resource Protection,
- Visitor Protection, and
- Visitor Service

Since over 90 % of the park's income comes directly from the park visitors, we try to minimize any impacts or hindrances to their activities. That is one reason we only allow one film crew in the park at a time. The following may also help make their stay more enjoyable and explain some of the requests the park staff may make.

### **5 Minute Rule**

ITC or Intermittent Traffic Stops are limited to 5 minutes from the appearance of the first vehicle. The film crew representatives are made aware of this prior to being issued a permit, so it shouldn't come as a surprise to them. The first vehicle to arrive at a traffic hold point could be the visitor or a member of the park staff. The staff have their jobs to attend to also, and there are rarely any alternate routes available to them.

### **Be Outside of Your Vehicle**

The visiting public has absolutely no idea how to respond to a temporary roadblock. They know how to move through a traffic accident, but few have any experience with controlled access where filming is occurring. The officer must be very obvious to show whether traffic should stop or move through. They will notice the flashing lights, but beyond getting their attention, what are they to do from there. The officer should be outside of his or her vehicle to be easily seen. Visitors cannot easily see the officer in the cruiser because of the heavy window tint. When traffic is light, and a vehicle may not arrive for several minutes, there is no reason an officer cannot retreat into the unit for A/C (or heat during the cooler months) until a vehicle approaches.

### **We Always Request At Least Two Units**

With the hills and curves on the roads and the size of many of the film crews, we require at least two officers, so one unit can be on each side of the ITC. There should be no reason to have both units on one side of the area being controlled.

### **Stay On the Asphalt**

There are some areas in the park where parking on the road shoulder is allowed, and some areas where it isn't. Most of the road north of Rainbow Vista to White Domes does not allow for shoulder parking. The patrol unit can move to block both lanes if necessary, or the officer can direct traffic past his/her cruiser. There are two reasons for this. First, the vegetation is fragile and can take years to reestablish if damaged, so not driving over it and killing it is the easiest option. The next is to give it the time to recover and reestablish. Vegetation is the best way to stabilize the road shoulder from erosion. It is bad enough when the public decides to drive off road, but continuous damage by the officer or by the film crew doesn't give it a chance.

Second, we are trying to keep the edge of the asphalt from breaking off. Once this happens, any patch applied will still be a weak point and will break again. That road is only 10 years old and located in a highly prone to erosion damage. We are trying to keep it as intact as possible.

### **Safety**

The officer has the final word on how close to be positioned to any curve that approaching traffic may be coming around. The officer is the best to determine how much space is needed to allow oncoming traffic to stop and avoid the patrol vehicle or the 3 or 4 vehicles that have already been stopped.

The filming vehicles have a lot of latitude with relation to speed as long as they are within the ITC zone. They have none outside of the ITC zone. They are also under the same restrictions the officer's are with relation to staying on the asphalt. If the officer is unsure of whether or not a film company should be doing something, then, most likely, they shouldn't be doing it.

### **Contact Us**

If there are any questions, the officer can contact the park office using the phone numbers above or relay a message through park staff. There are four areas in the park with good telephone reception. These are the East and West Entrance Stations, Rainbow Vista, and Parking Lot # 3 along the White Domes Road.