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SPORTS, 1B

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‘Plan ahead and allow extra time’



Vehicles drop off passengers at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport on July 22. JASON HIDALGO/RGJ

Reno airport expects 20,000 passengers daily for Burning Man

Jason Hidalgo
Reno Gazette Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Reno airport is expecting a flood of passengers in the coming week as the one-two punch of Burning Man and Labor Day brings out more travelers.

Reno-Tahoe International Airport is projecting passenger counts to reach approximately 20,000 people daily during peak days.

The Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority expects three days to be especially busy:

- Sunday, Aug. 30
- Friday, Sept. 4

● Monday, Sept. 7

Burning Man, which brings in tens of thousands of people every year, will be held from Aug. 30 to Sept. 7. Labor Day weekend runs from Saturday, Sept. 5, to Monday, Sept. 7 this year.

“These peak travel days make it especially important for travelers to plan ahead and allow extra time,” the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority said in a statement.

The expected increase in passenger traffic comes at a time when Reno is dealing with the Hawk Fire. The wildfire started on Saturday, Aug. 22, and has burned more than 15,000 acres.

About 63,000 residents are also within evacuation zones for the fire, further adding to demand in the area for hotels and lodging.

The Reno airport is also undergoing construction for its billion-dollar MoreRNO project, which includes two new \$650 million concourses and a large Ground Transportation Center.

“With Burning Man activity, holiday travel and ongoing construction along the airport’s Loop Road all contributing to increased congestion, travelers should expect heavier traffic and crowded roadways around [the airport],” the airport authority said.

Curbing workplace bullying among bills’ objectives

Michael Lyle
Nevada Current

Efforts to curb workplace bullying and expand a pharmacist’s ability to prescribe medications are among the bill draft requests sought by the state legislative interim Commerce and Labor Committee.

The proposals, which were approved

by the committee last week, will be drafted as legislation for the 2027 Legislative Session, which starts Feb. 1.

State lawmakers decided to look into protection against hostile work environments after several employees spoke of harassment and abusive work experiences during public comment in February, according to Nevada Current.

Terry Chi, the Nevada director for End

Workplace Abuse, a national group advocating for state legislatures to pass a Workplace Psychological Safety Act, was among those who addressed lawmakers in February.

Chi, a former Vegas PBS marketing director, filed a complaint in 2023 with the Equal Employment Opportunity

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Burning Man even more expensive as gas nears \$5 a gallon

Trevor Hughes
USA TODAY
USA TODAY NETWORK

FERNLEY, Nevada — Add high gas prices to the long list of challenges Burning Man participants are facing, from the wildfire outside Reno to the always-fickle Mother Nature.

Burners flooding into Northern Nevada are paying gas prices about 30% higher than this same time last year, according to AAA.

The average price for a gallon of regular in Nevada is \$4.82. Many burners will pass through Washoe County, home to Reno, where the average is a staggering \$5.17.

“I can feel my wallet crying,” said Drew Peace, 44, as he filled a 55-gallon drum with gas priced at \$4.39 a gallon at the Love’s travel stop in Fernley.

Hauling a large trailer with gear for the “Ohm Kar” group, Peace said he did his final fuel fill-up in Nevada because the prices are much cheaper than in California.

Across the gas station plaza, burners complained about the fuel prices, but said there was little they could do. Burning Man has always been expensive for most attendees, they said.

“This is crazy,” said Randy Wolff, 49, after putting \$600 of diesel into a battered box truck carrying his camp’s gear. “It’s adding up fast.”

Wolff and a friend drove about 400 miles from Boise, Idaho. In addition to the truck’s tank, the men filled containers for the camp’s diesel generator at \$6.04 a gallon.

Wolff said the group increased camp dues to cover the extra fuel costs.

Although it officially opens to participants at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, thousands of people are arriving early to help build out Black Rock City, the temporary community in the desert north of Gerlach.

The Hawk Fire burning just west of Reno gave some burners pause, but with the fire increasingly under control by Wednesday, Aug. 26, participants said they felt comfortable sticking to their plans.

As he made the 2,000-mile drive from Dallas, Christopher Cavender, 46, said he kept an eye on the forecast and the GasBuddy app to help find the cheapest prices along the way.

Cavender said he only comes to Burning Man every other year in part because it can be so expensive. He was disappointed to see gas prices rising as he packed up his camper.

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