



## The NMDOT Promotes Safe Rides Nearing the Super Bowl "Get a Lyft on us" sponsored by GHSAs

SOURCE: NMDOT

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSAs) are pleased to partner with Lyft to offer safe rides in New Mexico now through Super Bowl weekend, Feb. 8, 2021, to combat drunk driving.

Participants will receive a \$20 Lyft credit to be used up to two times per Lyft account.

Rides are offered anywhere statewide where Lyft is available. Participants may access the credit through the Lyft app using the code:

**NMSuper21**

Tips are not included, and refunds are not provided for trips costing less than the \$20 credit.

All riders are required to wear masks and New Mexicans are encouraged to limit unnecessary travel outside of the home and avoid gatherings with non-household members to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

**"Adults in the United States are drinking 14 percent more during the pandemic," said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. "It's understandable people want to celebrate the playoffs and Super Bowl, but the department simply asks New Mexicans to plan ahead. Don't drink and drive. Stay home and limit travel, but if you do need to go somewhere, please make responsible decisions and let someone else do the driving."**



Photo source: <https://www.volvocars.com/my/why-volvo/human-innovation/future-of-driving/connectivity/intellisafe-assist>

## Drivers Let their Focus Slip as They Get Used to Partial Automation

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.IIHS.ORG/API/DATASTOREDOCUMENT/STATUS-REPORT/PDF/55/5](https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/status-report/pdf/55/5)

Drivers fidget with electronics and take both hands off the wheel more often as they develop trust in automated systems, new research from IIHS and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AgeLab shows.

To investigate how experience with automation affects driver disengagement, the researchers studied the driving behavior of 20 Massachusetts-based volunteers over a month's time as they gained familiarity with advanced driver assistance features, examining how often they removed both hands from the steering wheel or took their attention away from the road to do things like use their cell phone or adjust the controls on the vehicle's console.

One group of 10 drove a Land Rover Range Rover Evoque equipped with adaptive cruise control (ACC), which automatically keeps the vehicle traveling at a speed chosen by the driver

while maintaining a pre-established following distance. Another 10 drove a Volvo S90 with both ACC and Pilot Assist, a partially automated system that combines ACC with lane-centering technology that keeps the vehicle positioned laterally in the travel lane.

Under the classification system developed by SAE International, the levels of automation range from 0 (no automation) to 5 (fully self-driving). Level 1 systems can assist the driver with one driving task; ACC fits into this category. Level 2 systems, such as Pilot Assist, can assist with two tasks. Level 2 is the highest level of automation available in production vehicles today.



## 2020 New Mexico Occupant Seat Belt Observation Pre-Survey

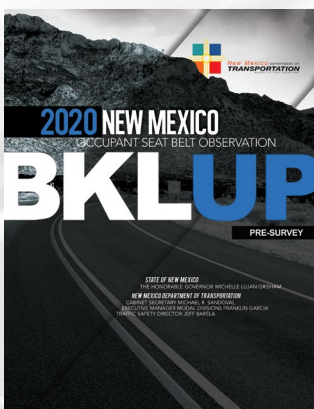
# 91.4%

The New Mexico Department of Transportation and Preusser Research Group (PRG) completed the 2020 New Mexico Occupant Seat Belt Observation Pre-Survey. The survey found New Mexico's seat belt use rate to be 91.4% — higher than the national average.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration waived the requirement for states to conduct an annual seat belt survey in calendar year 2020. New Mexico, however, determined it was in the best interest of the State to conduct a 2020 pre-survey to gauge the effectiveness of the typical Click It Or Ticket campaign, as well as for problem identification purposes.

The survey was conducted using road segments from 2019 survey, including those found in 19 of New Mexico's 33 counties, which account for 85.4% of passenger vehicles crash-related fatalities. Observations were recorded on Primary, Secondary, and Local roads. Quality control measures were utilized to ensure valid and reliable observation results.

Among other findings, the survey results found a slightly lower use rate among passengers (versus drivers). PRG recommends utilizing media or publicized enforcement campaigns targeted to passengers in an effort to encourage an increase in seat belt use among this group.



[CLICK HERE](#) for full report



Due to ongoing updates to the calendar of events, please [CLICK HERE](#) or visit [www.safernm.org](http://www.safernm.org) for the most current list.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**DUE TO PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO ENCOURAGE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, all IN PERSON Car Seat Fitting Stations and Clinics have been **canceled until further notice**. VIRTUAL Car Seat Checks are taking place by appointment only. Please call **(800) 231-6145** for additional information.**

## UPCOMING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COURSES

COVID PROTOCOLS WILL APPLY FOR IN-PERSON SESSIONS

[MORE INFO](#)

FRIDAY  
**JAN 8, 2021**

**VIRTUAL STEP Training**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

COMPLETED

FRIDAY  
**FEB 5, 2021**

**VIRTUAL STEP Training**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

FRIDAY  
**JAN 22, 2021**

**IN PERSON DWI Checkpoint Operation Training**  
1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Doña Ana County Sherfff's Office  
845 N Motel Blvd, LAS CRUCES

COMPLETED

FRIDAY  
**MAR 26, 2021**

**IN PERSON DWI Checkpoint Operation Training**  
2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Española Police Department  
1316 Calle Adelante, Suite E

[REGISTER](#)

## VIRTUAL BUCKLE UP NEW MEXICO

RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

**MAR 11, 2021**

NMDOT TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION AND SAFER NEW MEXICO NOW

[REGISTER](#)

### Buckle Up New Mexico Recertification Training Goes Virtual

This year, the Buckle Up New Mexico Recertification Training will be held virtually from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021. The 2021 BUNM offers interactive virtual sessions from experts in the field of Child Passenger Safety (CPS), CPS best practices, and education to support traffic safety and occupant protection programs throughout New Mexico. BUNM is eligible for CEUs or contact hours through Safe Kids, the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, the New Mexico Emergency Medical Services Bureau, and a certified emergency and professional nursing affiliation. Additionally, due to the ongoing public health emergency, and in compliance with the Governor's directives, in-person seat sign-offs will be arranged to be held at a later date.

In an effort to offset the cost of providing expert presenters and applying for CEUs, this year's registration fee is \$50. With your registration fee, you will also receive a CPST Kit, including a sweatshirt and tech gear. All attendees are required to register and pay **ONLINE. THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021.**

UPCOMING VIRTUAL  
Car Seat Checks

FIRST AND THIRD  
**WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH**



SECOND  
**SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY / (800) 231-6145

## Drivers Let their Focus Slip as They Get Used to Partial Automation

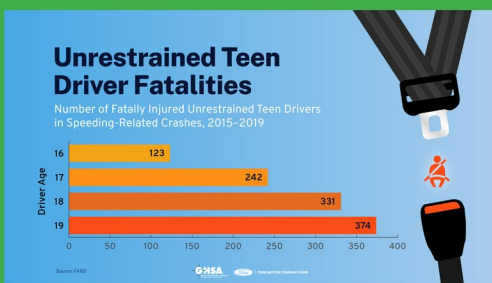
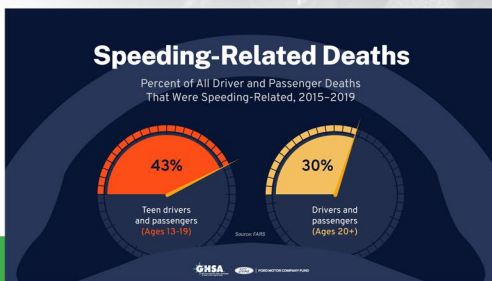
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When the drivers first received the vehicles, there was little or no difference in how frequently they showed signs of disengagement, whether they were driving manually, using ACC or using Pilot Assist. After a month, however, they were substantially more likely to let their focus slip or take their hands off the wheel when using automation, and the impact of Volvo's Level 2 system was more dramatic than that of ACC alone, says IIHS Senior Research Scientist Ian Reagan, the lead author of the study.

"Drivers were more than twice as likely to show signs of disengagement after a month of using Pilot Assist compared with the beginning of the study," Reagan says. "Compared with driving manually, they were more than 12 times as likely to take both hands off the wheel after they'd gotten used to how the lane centering worked."

Pilot Assist and similar systems like Tesla's Autopilot, Cadillac's Super Cruise and Mercedes-Benz's Intelligent Drive are not designed to replace the driver. They have trouble negotiating many common road features, so the driver must be in control at all times. However, with the automation managing steering and speed — quite well in some cases — it's easy for the driver to lose focus.

[CLICK HERE for full report](#)



## Teens and Speeding: Breaking the Deadly Cycle

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.GHSA.ORG/RESOURCES/TEENS-AND-SPEEDING-REPORT21](https://www.ghsa.org/resources/teens-and-speeding-report21)

The new analysis for GHSA found that from 2015 to 2019, teen drivers and passengers (16-19 years of age) accounted for a greater proportion of speeding-related fatalities (43%) than all other age groups (30%). During this five-year period, 4,930 teen drivers and passengers died in speeding-related crashes. Teens and Speeding: Breaking the Deadly Cycle also sheds light on what we know about speeding-related fatal crashes involving teens – the driver is more likely to be male, have run off the road or rolled the vehicle and be unbuckled. The data analysis was conducted by Richard Retting of Sam Schwartz Consulting.

This new analysis of teen driving deaths is especially timely. Crashes have spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic and speeding on less-crowded than normal roadways is cited by states as a major factor in the surge in motor vehicle deaths. Parents may also have less time to spend training their teen drivers given other priorities during the pandemic.

[CLICK HERE for full report](#)

Content and Design by Tura Linderholm and Michelle Cisewski

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