

New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

TRAFFIC SAFETY NEWS

NMDOT TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION [MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE]
WWW.DOT.STATE.NM.US

APR-JUN 2021

The NMDOT Traffic Safety Division Updates Driver Education

SOURCE: <https://www.myhighplains.com/news/new-mexico/new-mexico-department-of-transportation-traffic-safety-division-updates-driver-education/>

The New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD) is working with driving schools across the state to complete driver education training while adhering to health and safety orders.

“The pandemic has forced a lot of families and driving schools to suspend driver education courses,” said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. “Getting a license has also been an issue because students couldn’t complete their in-person driving instruction or make an appointment to test with the MVD offices to attain their licenses,” adds Sandoval. “Now that students can resume one-on-one driving instruction, they can progress through the Graduated Driver Licensing system.”

The NMDOT’s Traffic Safety Division (TSD) oversees all driver education programs statewide. All teens under the age of 18 must complete one of three programs to obtain a driver permit and license in New Mexico.

- **Teens may complete 30 hours of classroom instruction with seven hours of behind the wheel training with a certified instructor. This format is offered by private driving schools.**
- **Complete 56 hours of classroom instruction. These are high school elective courses.**
- **Complete 56 hours of NMDOT-approved correspondence education through a home-based program and students must apply for permission prior to enrollment.**

The department has directed, said the announcement, all driving schools to follow current emergency public health orders and COVID-19 safe practices and guidance. High schools are directed to provide a hybrid model of in-person instruction and virtual learning or complete virtual instruction.



Motor Vehicle Deaths in 2020 Estimated to be Highest in 13 Years

SOURCE: <https://www.nsc.org/newsroom/motor-vehicle-deaths-2020-estimated-to-be-highest>

Preliminary data from the National Safety Council (NSC) show that as many as 42,060 people are estimated to have died in motor vehicle crashes in 2020. That is an 8% increase over 2019, in a year where people drove significantly less frequently because of the pandemic. Additionally, an estimated 4.8 million additional roadway users were seriously injured in crashes in 2020, and the estimated cost to society was \$474 billion.

The preliminary estimated rate of death on the roads last year spiked 24% over the previous 12-month period, despite miles driven dropping 13%. The increase in the rate of death is the highest estimated year-over-year jump that NSC has calculated since 1924 – 96 years.

Estimates indicate that only nine states saw a drop in deaths, including New Mexico with a -4% drop in deaths. Other states include, Alaska (-3%), Delaware (-11%) Hawaii (-20%), Idaho (-7%), Maine (-1%), Nebraska (-9%), North Dakota (-1%), and Wyoming (-13%).

Eight states experienced more than a 15% increase in the estimated number of deaths last year, including Arkansas (+26%), Connecticut (+22%), District of Columbia (+33%), Georgia (+18%), Mississippi (+19%), Rhode Island (+26%), South Dakota (+33%) and Vermont (+32%).

As a result of the data, the NSC and more than 1,500 other organizations and individuals are urging the country to commit to zero roadway deaths by 2050. To learn more about this data and the immediate life-saving measures to set the nation on the road to zero deaths, visit <https://www.nsc.org/road/resources/road-to-zero/road-to-zero-home>.



justdrive NMDOT

NMDOT TSD Launches 'Just Drive' Campaign During National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Source: <https://ladailypost.com/nmdot-tsd-launches-just-drive-campaign-during-april-distracted-driving-awareness-month/>

For more information, click here to visit <https://www.dntxtjustdrive.com/>

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT-TSD) reminds drivers of the deadly dangers and legal consequences of distracted driving.

Traffic is steadily increasing as COVID-19 restrictions are slowly lifted. The department is launching a new spring 2021 JUST DRIVE campaign to bring awareness to the consequences of distracted driving. The social media video is narrated from the perspective of a child, who describes the results of texting while driving. The narration is supported by childlike drawings, which become animated.

The spots will debut in April to coincide with Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

In 2019, distracted driving killed 3,142 people in the United States, a 10 percent increase from 2018 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Nationally, more than 700 people are injured in distracted driving crashes each day according to the National Safety Council (NSC). In New Mexico there were 167 fatalities related to distracted driving and more than 21,000 distracted driving crashes in 2019.

While texting behind the wheel tops the list of distractions, other risky actions include:

- Talking on the phone or to others in the vehicle;
- Setting navigation systems or looking at directions;
- Finding a radio station, podcast, audiobook or downloading music;
- Eating and drinking beverages;
- Applying makeup; and
- Distractions related to children in the vehicle.

Follow these safety tips for a safe ride every time:

- Pull over and park if you must read or send a text, otherwise it can wait;
- Designate a passenger as your "designated texter or caller";
- Never scroll through social media or other apps while driving; and
- If you struggle to put the phone away, keep it out of reach while driving.

"Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads," Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval said. "It's time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're driving."



NMDOT District Two Launches Public Awareness Campaign

“Share the Love, Don’t Litter! Help Keep Southeast New Mexico Beautiful!”

SOURCE: https://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/Community/Press_Releases/D2NR_Share_Love_Dont_Litter.pdf

The New Mexico Department of Transportation District Two introduced a new public awareness campaign, “Share the Love, Don’t Litter! Help Keep Southeast New Mexico Beautiful!” The campaign raises awareness about New Mexico’s roadway litter problem.

“It’s disturbing and disheartening, people are turning our roadsides into garbage dumps,” said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. “This campaign will serve as a reminder to everyone, to dispose of their trash appropriately. It is also an important step for the DOT in southeast New Mexico, to promote environmental stewardship. Through this campaign, we are stressing the responsibility all of us carry to love and protect our public highways,” adds Sandoval.

District Two and our partners at the Permian Strategic Partnership are committed to promoting ways to reduce litter on state roads, specifically in Eddy and Lea County, where litter has been rampant.

“The Permian Strategic Partnership and our member companies are committed to working with NMDOT and Lea and Eddy Counties to highlight the importance of this issue and address the growing safety concerns on our highways,” said Tracee

Bentley, President & CEO Permian Strategic Partnership.

“Litter-free highways is something we should all be working toward,” said Francisco Sanchez, District Two Maintenance Engineer. “The initial step is to ensure everyone recognizes the role they play in preserving the beauty of our state, specifically in Southeast New Mexico.”

“Our highway maintenance personnel and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers take tremendous pride in keeping our highways clean; however, we need everyone’s help to keep our state beautiful,” said Rick Padilla, Acting District Two Engineer.

District Two maintenance personnel and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers pick up nearly 700 tons of trash annually. Opportunities to adopt a mile of highway are available. Contact the NMDOT District Two Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Candace Buechner at (575) 626-7416 for more information.

Eddy County Manager Allen Davis said, “It’s important that we all do our part to keep our public highways clean and safe. I believe this a great initiative taken by NMDOT.”

The NMDOT would also like to remind drivers to secure your loads. New Mexico statute 66-7-364 states, “No person shall throw, deposit, drop or permit to be dropped, any trash, or destructive, injurious material upon any highway.”

Parents Worry Vehicle Tech Might Prevent Teens from Mastering the Basics

SOURCE: <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastoredocument/status-report/pdf/56/1>

Advanced driver assistance features have the potential to improve safety for young, novice drivers, but parents have mixed opinions about how to introduce such technologies to their teenagers, a new study from IIHS shows.

“Parents who have used advanced driving assistance features with their teens worry that things like blind spot monitoring or lane departure warning systems could prevent them from learning the basics of driving, but they’re also aware those same features might save them from a crash,” says IIHS Research Scientist Rebecca Weast, the lead author of the study.

Teenage drivers are 3 times as likely as those 20 or older to be involved in a fatal crash. Those deaths are often the result of single-vehicle crashes caused by speeding or other errors that cause the driver to lose control.

Because teens most often drive older, cheaper vehicles, they’re also less likely to benefit from proven crash prevention technologies like automatic emergency braking (AEB) — which is expected to be installed in less than a quarter of the vehicles on U.S. roads by 2023 despite a major push from manufacturers. But AEB and other features like blind spot monitoring systems and sensors that warn the driver when the vehicle is drifting out of its lane are becoming more and more common on the cars that their parents drive and they learn on.



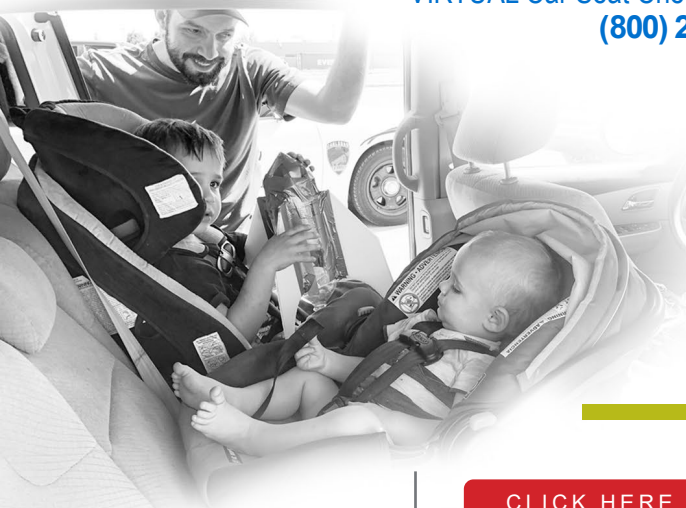
[CLICK TO CONTINUE ON PAGE 4](#)



Due to ongoing updates to the calendar of events, please [CLICK HERE](#) or visit www.saferm.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 Virtual Car Seat Checks

FIRST AND THIRD
**WEDNESDAYS OF
EACH MONTH**



SECOND
**SATURDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY / (800) 231-6145

[CLICK HERE](#) to check the website for course availability

FRIDAY
APR 16, 2021

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

FRIDAY
MAY 21, 2021

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

FRIDAY
JUN 25, 2021

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

UPCOMING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COURSES

COVID PROTOCOLS
WILL APPLY FOR
IN-PERSON SESSIONS

WED-FRI
MAY 12-14, 2021

IN-PERSON Radar/LIDAR
Instructor Training
8:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Rio Rancho Police Department
500 Quantum Rd. NE
RIO RANCHO

VIRTUAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT
COORDINATORS'
SYMPOSIUM
MAY 5, 2021

- Reinvesting in Traffic Safety after 2020
- Nighttime Seat Belt Enforcement
- Motivating Traffic Enforcement Officers
- Legal Update

[REGISTER](#)

[CLICK TO VISIT CALENDAR](#)

April

National Distracted Driving
Awareness Month
Alcohol Awareness Month

Virtual STEP
April 16, 2021, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May

National Youth Traffic Safety Month
Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
Bicycle Safety Month

Click it or Ticket National Occupant Protection
Mobilization, May 24-June 6

Virtual Law Enforcement Coordinator's Symposium
May 5, 2021

Radar/LIDAR Instructor Training
May 12-14, 2021, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Rio Rancho Police Department

Virtual STEP
Friday May 21, 2021, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June

National Safety Month

Virtual STEP
June 25, 2021

Summer Enforcement Campaign
June 20-September 27, 2021

VIRTUAL BUCKLE UP NEW MEXICO

RECERTIFICATION TRAINING

MAR 11, 2021

NMDOT TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION
AND SAFER NEW MEXICO NOW

More Important
than Ever...

Safer New Mexico Now Hosts First Virtual Buckle Up New Mexico Recertification Training

On March 11, 2021, the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD) and Safer New Mexico Now (Safer) hosted the annual Buckle Up New Mexico (BUNM) Recertification Training. The training was held virtually for the first time due to the public health emergency. A total of 135 Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs), presenters, manufacturers, and traffic safety dignitaries attended the training.

The 2021 BUNM featured a variety of presentations covering important safety topics from leading experts in the field of CPS. Topics included how pediatric anatomy affects injuries in crashes, the importance of CPS as children develop, CPS updates and demos, new car seats and features updates, a review of online resources and the 2021 LATCH Manual, as well as an interactive trivia session.

This training is made available to current CPSTs who participate in New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) programs and Child Passenger Safety (CPS) events, and who are in need of credits to maintain or renew their certification. To maintain their certification, CPSTs are required to earn six continuing education units (CEUs) every two years. The 2021 BUNM training was approved by Safe Kids Worldwide, the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, the New Mexico Emergency Medical Services Bureau, and the California Board of Registered Nursing.

NMDOT TSD leadership attended and supported the conference. Safer also received support from numerous corporate partners, including State Farm, and national child restraint manufactures such as BubbleBum, Chicco, Clek, Dorel Juvenile Group, Evenflo/Goodbaby International, Graco Children's Products, Inc. (Newell Brands), KidsEmbrace, Nuna Baby, Safe Traffic System, Inc, Summer Infant, and UPPAbaby.

Frank W. Yates Jr. Family Foundation Recognized for Donation to Safer New Mexico Now

The Frank W. Yates Jr. Family Foundation was presented with the Making A Difference Financial Service Award by Safer New Mexico Now (Safer) during the 2021 Virtual Buckle Up New Mexico Recertification Training held in March. Safer built a strong relationship with the Yates Family Foundation when the two organizations came together to honor the life of Cy Palmer, a 7-year-old who tragically lost his life as the result of a motor vehicle crash on November 15, 2017 in Artesia. Although Cy was wearing his seat belt, he was not using a booster seat,

which ensures the seat belt fits correctly and the passenger is properly restrained in the event of a crash.

The Yates Family Foundation and Safer established Cy's Clinic, an annual car seat inspection clinic held in celebration of the life of and in remembrance of Cy. The clinic is held annually in October to honor Cy's birthday. This year, the clinic was held virtually due to the public health emergency. Despite this, child passenger safety technicians were able to assist families in checking a total of nine seats.

In addition to co-hosting the clinic annually, the Yates Family Foundation donated to Safer in support of child passenger safety programs. Safer is proud to partner with the foundation to continue to raise awareness of the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats.

Parents Worry Vehicle Tech Might Prevent Teens from Mastering the Basics

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2](#)

To explore how parents feel about these technologies, IIHS worked with J.D. Power to conduct three focus groups. The discussion involved a total of 21 parents who had used a vehicle equipped with at least four common driver assistance features to teach their teens to drive. These common features included blind spot monitoring, forward collision warning, front or rear AEB, lane departure warning and lane departure prevention — which steers the vehicle back on course when it drifts out of its lane.

While many parents said they believe these features provide some safety benefits, they were divided about when and how they should be used during the process of learning to drive.

[CLICK HERE for full article](#)

Content and Design by Tura Linderholm and Michelle Cisewski

The Traffic Safety News Publication is a federally-funded project from the [NMDOT Traffic Safety Division](#). Contents may be republished with attribution. The contents of this newsletter are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended as an endorsement of any program. If you would like to submit articles, calendar events, or other items for consideration, please email: info@safernm.org, or call: (505) 856-6143.