



TRAFFIC SAFETY NEWS

NMDOT TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION [MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE]
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NAVIGATION LINKS:

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- ▶ ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS KEEP NEW MEXICANS SAFE ON ROADWAYS
- ▶ HAVE A SAFE SUMMER WITH THESE TIPS FROM THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
- ▶ NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATORS' SYMPOSIUM
- ▶ HOT CARS CAN BE DEADLY
- ▶ KEEPING CHILDREN REAR-FACING FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IS SAFEST
- ▶ UPCOMING EVENTS
- ▶ IS YOUR CAR SAFE? FIND OUT ONLINE WITH NHTSA



Enhanced Enforcement Campaigns Keep New Mexicans Safe on Roadways



SOURCE: NEWS RELEASE BY THE NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE

During the Memorial Day holiday, the New Mexico State Police participated in the Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE) operation across all New Mexico roadways. The enhanced enforcement effort resulted in more than 3,300 traffic citations – 231 for not using seat belts – and arrested nearly 40 drunk drivers statewide. Additionally, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau issued approximately 261 commercial vehicle citations and conducted more than 300 vehicle inspections.

The enhanced enforcement efforts don't stop at Memorial

Day. Drivers in New Mexico can expect an increased police presence this summer as part of the 100 Days and Nights of Summer. During the campaign, which runs June 23 through September 30, 2018, law enforcement organizations throughout the State will conduct an increased number of checkpoints and saturation patrols in an effort to crackdown on drunken and distracted driving. Additionally, officers will also issue citations for drivers who are speeding or those who are not properly using their seat belt.

For more information about enhanced enforcement campaigns, and for resources, visit <http://www.endwi.com/>

Have a Safe Summer with These Tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

SOURCE: NHTSA

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is reminding motorists to take a few minutes to prepare their vehicles before the summer driving season to ensure a safe trip for them and their families. NHTSA has a dedicated page chock full of safety tips, a video and a downloadable safety checklist that drivers and passengers should follow before, and during, their summer travel.

"We are encouraging all motorists to drive safely this summer and to make sure their vehicles are road trip ready," said Heidi King, NHTSA Deputy Administrator.

Routine car care like tune-ups, battery checks, and tire rotations are important and help with preventing breakdowns. Be sure also to check your vehicle's tire pressure, wiper blades, fluid levels, lights, and air conditioning before you go.

[CLICK TO CONTINUE ON PAGE 2](#)

Have a Safe Summer with These Tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's equally important to:

- Check for recalls. Even the most informed car owner may be unaware that their recalled vehicle needs repair. The repair is free. NHTSA's VIN Look-Up Tool lets you see if your vehicle has been repaired as part of a safety recall in the last 15 years. Visit www.nhtsa.gov/recalls to find out about possible safety defects in your vehicle, and help protect your loved ones and other motorists.
- Protect your passengers. All drivers and passengers should wear seat belts. When you're traveling with a child, it's safest for them to ride in a car seat suited for their age and size, and all children 12 and younger should ride in the back seat. If you're having trouble finding the right car seat for your child's age and size, visit nhtsa.gov/parents for additional tips.
- Share the road and stay alert! Warmer weather will attract different types of roadway users, including motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Put a safe distance – 3 or 4 seconds worth – between you and motorcyclists, and always be mindful of pedestrians and bicyclists. During long trips, take a break when driving long distances. Plan for times to stop and stretch, eat healthy meals and relax, and consider stopping and staying in a hotel to recharge during longer drives.
- Observe "Move Over" laws. Slow down and move over—change lanes if it's safe to do so—to give safe clearance to law enforcement officers assisting motorists on the side of the road. It's the law in all 50 states.
- Store an emergency roadside kit. Even well-maintained vehicles can break down, so it's a good idea to have a few emergency items readily accessible for your family's road trip. In your kit, consider adding a cell phone and charger, first aid kit, flashlight, flares, jumper cables, water, and blankets.
- Don't drink and drive. Be responsible: if you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out. You can also



get NHTSA's SaferRide mobile app from the iTunes store or Google Play. SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or friend for a ride, and will even help users identify their location so they can be picked up.

- Avoid distraction. Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 3,450 lives in 2016 alone. Distracted driving can be anything that pulls your attention away from driving, including cell phone use, texting while driving, eating, drinking, and using in-vehicle technologies and portable electronic devices. Please visit NHTSA's distracted driving safety website for additional information.
- Learn about 15-passenger vans. Drivers and passengers of 15-passenger vans should be aware that these vehicles have unique operating and handling requirements.

New Mexico Law Enforcement Coordinators' Symposium

More than 162 New Mexico law enforcement personnel from 79 agencies statewide, gathered along with numerous exhibitors and sponsors, for the Law Enforcement Coordinators' Symposium (LECS) held May 9-10, 2018 at the Sandia Resort in Albuquerque. The annual event is hosted by the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD) and Safer New Mexico Now (Safer), a nonprofit organization that leads effective efforts to advance traffic safety by coordinating innovative traffic safety programs, and maintaining meaningful partnerships with law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, injury prevention specialists, advocates, educators, and families.

The training event is conducted for representatives from New Mexico law enforcement agencies participating in NMDOT TSD programs, including the State's ENDWI, Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), and the 100 Days and Nights of Summer Campaigns. The symposium featured local and national speakers presenting on a variety of topics, including distracted driving, DWI enforcement efforts, the New Mexico Implied Consent Act, preparing law enforcement personnel for trials and Motor Vehicle Division hearings, and strategies to help agencies foster positive relationships with the media and build community support.

The keynote address was presented by Sheriff Timothy S. Whitcomb of the Catteraugus County (NY) Sheriff's Office. Sheriff



Whitcomb provided a dynamic, powerful, and emotional presentation regarding the reality of the incident rate of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) within the ranks of the law enforcement community. Sheriff Whitcomb used his personal experiences and educational background to bring attention to the prevalent rates of PTSD and police suicide. He also addressed ways for agencies to implement and increase training to better prepare, insulate, protect, and treat the expected exposure to trauma law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis. Sheriff Whitcomb received exceedingly high marks and a standing ovation for his

presentation.

During the symposium, the NMDOT TSD and Safer expressed appreciation to all law enforcement personnel who dedicate their time and efforts to traffic safety in the State. The NMDOT TSD presented awards to numerous agencies that, through hard work and dedication, have made an impact in their community by reducing traffic related deaths and injuries on New Mexico Highways. Awards were presented to the Pueblo of Pojoaque Police Department, the Clovis Police Department, and the McKinley County DWI Enforcement Task Force, which is comprised of officers from the McKinley

County Sheriff's Department, the Navajo Nation Police Department, Gallup Police Department, Zuni Police Department, and the Ramah Navajo Chapter Police Department. Additionally, the San Juan County Sheriff's Office received an Agency Recognition Award and an Intoxilyzer breathalyzer for their commitment to enhanced enforcement efforts to advance the ENDWI Program.

Additionally, Safer presented the Jim R. Allison Exemplary Leadership Award to Sheriff Mark Cage with the Eddy County Sheriff's Office. This award honors a member of the traffic safety community who has exhibited exemplary and profound leadership, inspired significant change in the community, who has created and set standards of excellence and fostered an atmosphere of trust and respect. New Mexico State Police Chief Pete Kassetas presented the award, recognizing Sheriff Cage for his extensive service in law enforcement and his outstanding efforts to address critical issues facing the safety of travelers on US Highway 285 in southern Eddy County.

Hot Cars Can Be Deadly

SOURCE: NHTSA.GOV

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 42 children died of vehicular heatstroke in 2017. Tragically, 12 children have died already this year from being left in a hot car. In just 10 minutes, the temperature inside your vehicle can reach deadly levels. You can help prevent these deaths by following these simple steps:

1. Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended –even if the windows are partially open or the engine is running, and the air conditioning is on.
2. Make a habit of looking in the vehicle – front and back – before locking the doors and walking away.
3. Ask your childcare providers to call if the child doesn't show up for care as expected.
4. Place your purse or briefcase in the back seat to ensure your child isn't accidentally left in the vehicle.
5. Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger seat to remind you that a child is in the vehicle.
6. Teach children that a vehicle is not a play area and store keys out of a child's reach.
7. If you see a child alone in a locked car, get them out immediately and call 911.
8. A child in distress due to heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.



Keeping Children Rear-Facing for As Long as Possible is Safest



SOURCE: POPSUGAR.COM

New Mexico state law requires any child under the age of one to ride in a rear-facing child safety seat in a back seat, but don't rush to turn your child forward-facing based on age alone. Experts say that while age is a good benchmarking tool, parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their children rear-facing as long as possible – that is until they outgrow the rear-facing weight and height limits for their car seat according to the instruction manual.

Young children have heavy heads and small, flexible bodies. Facing the back of a car, truck, or van in a rear-facing child safety seat is safer than facing the front. The car seat supports the child's head and neck. Should there be a collision; a child

[CLICK TO CONTINUE ON PAGE 5](#)



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

UPCOMING Events

June 23 - Sept. 30 100 Days and Nights of Summer

July

1 - 8 Mini Superblitz ENDWI & BKLUP

14 Child Safety Seat Clinic – RUIDOSO
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Public Health Office, 111 Kansas City Rd

19 Transportation Commission Meeting: Raton

27 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Kohl's, 6800 Holly Ave.

August

3 Child Safety Seat Clinic – LAS CRUCES
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
SW Regional Public Health Office, 1170
N. Solano

7 Child Safety Seat Clinic – DEMING
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Luna County Courthouse Park, 700 S.
Silver Ave.

7 Child Safety Seat Clinic – CLOVIS
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Clovis New Life Church, 517 W. 21st

7 National Night Out

16 Child Safety Seat Clinic – FORT
SUMNER
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
De Baca Family Practice Clinic, 546 N.
10th St.

17 - 22 National Child Passenger Safety
Technician Certification Training –
Santa Fe

August 17 National DWI Crackdown – Drive Sober
- Sept. 3 or Get Pulled Over

18 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ROSWELL
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
La Casa Behavioral Health, 110 E.
Mescalero Rd.

25 Child Safety Seat Clinic – RIO RANCHO
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Target, 4225 Crestview Dr. NW

September

National Baby Safety Awareness Month

2 - 8 National Child Injury Prevention Week

20 Transportation Commission Meeting: Milan

23 - 29 National Child Passenger Safety Week

29 National Seat Check Saturday Statewide
Clinics

Keeping Children Rear-Facing for As Long as Possible is Safest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

riding rear-facing will be more protected as the crash energy is spread across the entire back. But many caregivers turn their children around before the age of two, or right after, because they look uncomfortable. But your child's legs touching the back of the vehicle seat or being a little cramped isn't actually a big deal.

"Many parents worry if their child's feet are touching the seat or their legs appear squished that it automatically means their child is uncomfortable, or that they may injure their legs," says Dr. Benjamin Hoffman, a pediatrician and Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor. "As far as injuries go, it is important to remember that legs and arms are easier to fix than brain or head injuries. So while it's hard to think about a child being injured

at all, the fact remains that rear-facing is associated with way fewer injuries period."

The best thing to do is follow the instruction manual, or read the labels on the side of your car seat. If your child is still within the rear-facing limits of their car seat, experts suggest you keep them rear-facing.

And if you're still not sure you are using the right seat, or just want to have your car seat inspected, Safer New Mexico Now is available to help with numerous child safety seat inspection events held statewide. A Child Safety Seat Fitting Station or Clinic offers parents and caregivers personalized assistance from a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician on the proper selection and use of your car seat. To see a list of upcoming events, or to make an appointment, visit www.safernm.org or call 800-231-6145.



Fitting Stations offer child safety seat inspection appointments during regular hours of operation at ten permanent New Mexico locations.

Alamogordo Third Saturday of each month	(505) 439-4300
Albuquerque: NE Second Friday of each month	(505) 856-6143
Albuquerque: SW Third Thursday of each month	(505) 856-6143

Albuquerque: Central First Friday of each month	(505) 272-6024
Artesia Third Saturday of each month	(800) 231-6145
Farmington Third Saturday of each month	(800) 231-6145

Las Cruces First and third Wednesdays of each month	(800) 231-6145
Las Vegas Last Wednesday (JAN, MAY-DEC)	(800) 231-6145
Rio Rancho First Friday of each month	(800) 231-6145
Santa Fe Second and fourth Fridays (APR-OCT) Second Friday (NOV-MAR)	(505) 471-3965 (800) 231-6145

Is Your Car Safe? Find Out Online with NHTSA



Do you suspect your car isn't working like it should? Does it make a funny noise or stall out for no reason? Are you buying a new or "new-to-you" car and want to make sure there are no defects? One visit to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) website can help you determine if your vehicle is safe.

Consumers can check for existing recalls on their vehicle, as well as submit complaints about any suspected safety issues at www.nhtsa.gov/recalls or by calling 1-888-327-4236. Through the website, users can easily find information about their vehicles or vehicle equipment, including:

- A list of recalls for every vehicle in the country new and used
- A search feature to check for recalls on any individual vehicle using a VIN
- Safety ratings for new and used vehicles
- Recall information about vehicle equipment and tires

In addition to vehicle safety, NHTSA provides recall and safety information for children's car seats. Parents and caregivers should always register their car seats with the manufacturer when they

purchase a new seat. However, if you're unsure if you registered your seat, or just want to check on the status, users can input the car seat brand and model number into NHTSA's search feature and receive any recall or safety information regarding that seat. The search feature will provide a summary of the issue, consequences of not getting the defective parts repaired, as well as information on how to remedy the issue – which usually includes contacting the manufacturer for a free repair kit.

For more information on vehicle safety recalls, visit www.nhtsa.gov/recalls or call 1-888-327-4236.

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