

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

TRAFFIC SAFETY NEWS

NMDOT TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION [MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE]
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APR-JUN 2019

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Franklin Garcia Named Executive Manager Modal Divisions

Franklin Garcia is the new Executive Manager Modal Divisions (Traffic Safety, Transit & Rail, Aviation, & Port of Entry) for the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). Garcia holds a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and has been working with the NMDOT Traffic Safety Division (TSD) since 1999.

His career with the NMDOT TSD began as a Program Manager with oversight of the Driver Education Programs. In 2003, Garcia was promoted and began managing the Public Education and Enforcement sector with oversight of NMDOT TSD education programs, including driver education, driver

improvement, DWI School, and the Ignition Interlock Program. He most recently served as Director for the NMDOT TSD.

Garcia has experience working with a variety of NMDOT programs, including motorcycle training, traffic records, law enforcement training, and managing media development and media placement for the TSD.

Since 2014, Garcia has been working on the NMDOT Ports of Entry program in order to manage the transition of the Ports of Entry Permit and port infrastructure improvements. He also is an active member of the NMDOT Legislative Team and has been involved in the development and implementation of several traffic safety legislative initiatives.

Should Every Motorcyclist Have to Wear a Helmet?

SOURCE: NMDOT CABINET SECRETARY,
MICHAEL SANDOVAL



May is National Motorcycle Awareness Month. NMDOT supports motorcyclists. People have the right to choose their mode of transportation. With safety in mind, information for both motorcyclists and motorists will be pushed out to media outlets around the state. Encouraging riders and drivers to respect the rules of the road and watch out for one another, but the number one recommendation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for motorcyclists is, "Always wear a helmet."

As the weather warms up, more motorcyclists will take to the roads. Some will wear helmets, some won't. By state law, those 18 and older, don't have to. Although it is not mandated, adults can benefit immensely from wearing a helmet. Safety is the New Mexico Department of Transportation's number one priority and helmets are a proven safety measure. NHTSA estimates helmets

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Safer New Mexico Now Hosts Annual Buckle Up New Mexico Recertification Training

On March 13-14, 2019, Safer New Mexico Now (Safer) hosted the annual Buckle Up New Mexico (BUNM) Recertification Training at the Sandia Resort in Albuquerque.

A total of 131 Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) statewide attended the training. 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.

The BUNM training features training session led by experts in the field of CPS. Attendees have the opportunity to learn about the latest advances in child safety seat and vehicle manufacturing, occupant protection programming updates, and best practices. The 2019 BUNM featured a variety of presentations covering important safety topics, including new car seats and features updates, the proper use of tethers and lower anchors, utilizing all available resources when installing a seat, transporting pediatric patients, as well as a number of hands-on activities to allow technicians to practice their skills.

During the conference, technicians also participated in a child safety seat clinic. CPSTs inspected a total of 52 child safety seats. A total of 14 seats were found to be misused (27% misuse rate) and six unsafe seats were replaced. The child safety seat clinic is a free service funded by the NMDOT.

To maintain their certification, CPSTs are required to earn six continuing education units (CEUs) every two years. The 2019 BUNM training was approved by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, the New Mexico Emergency Medical Services Bureau, and the Emergency Nurses Association for CEU accreditation.

NMDOT leadership attended and supported the conference. In addition, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Regional Administrator was in attendance in support of the conference. Safer also received support from numerous corporate partners, including many national child restraint manufactures such as Britax, BubbleBum, Chicco, Evenflow Company, Graco Children's Products, Inc. (Newell Brands), KidsEmbrace, mifold, Nuna, Peg-Pérego, and Ride Safer by Safe Traffic System, Inc.



Pedestrian Deaths Are on the Rise – What You Can Do To Stay Safe

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.GHSA.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/2019-02/FINAL_PEDESTRIANS19.PDF](https://www.ghsa.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/FINAL_PEDESTRIANS19.PDF)

A new report by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) estimates more than 6,200 pedestrian fatalities occurred in 2018, a four percent increase from 2017. New Mexico had the highest rate of pedestrian deaths per resident population, a 47% increase from 2017.

In response to the alarming increase, the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT) has partnered with the University of New Mexico Center for Injury Prevention, Research and Education to create "LOOK FOR ME," an initiative to increase education and outreach to communities statewide to increase the capacity for safe walking and bicycling while helping to reduce collisions that lead to injury and fatality on New Mexico public roadways.

The LOOK FOR ME campaign focuses on the fact that pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility between pedestrians and drivers. Be sure to check out the following tips on what you can do – as a pedestrian and a driver – to stay safer on New Mexico roads.

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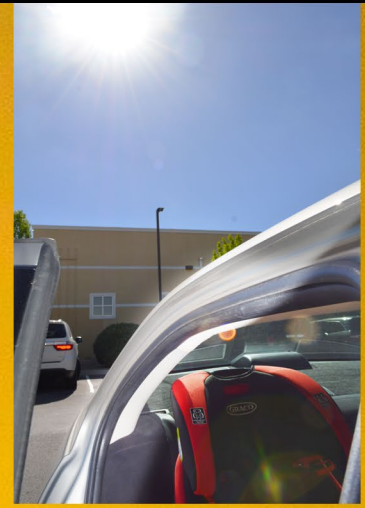


The Dangers of Hot Cars

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.NHTSA.GOV/CAMPAIGN/CHILD-SAFETY](https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/child-safety)

In 2018, 51 children died in hot cars, the worst year in history. While most people this can't happen to them, the reality is that hot car deaths can happen to anyone. This typically happens when a parent or caregiver makes a change in their daily routine, or because a child gets into a vehicle on their own without a caregiver's knowledge. In just 10 minutes, the temperature inside your vehicle can reach deadly levels – even on cool days, if you're parked in the shade, or if it's cloudy. As the summer months approach, here are a few tips on how you can help prevent these deaths:

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. Look Before You Lock – 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. Keep vehicles locked at all times – especially in a garage or driveway. 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.



Should Every Motorcyclist Have to Wear a Helmet?

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saved the lives of 1,870 motorcyclists in 2017 and 750 more lives in all states could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.

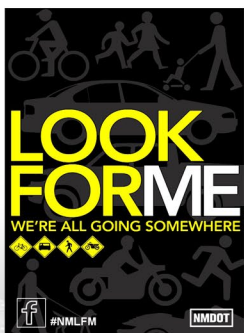
Motorcyclists are highly vulnerable to injuries. Head injuries are one of the most common. A severe head injury can be fatal, or permanently disabling, requiring lifelong medical care. National statistics show,

motorcyclists who wear helmets, dramatically reduce their risk of head injuries by 69-percent. According to NHTSA, all rider helmet laws increase the use of helmets, decrease deaths and injuries and save taxpayer money.

Some motorcyclists say it's their right to choose not to wear a helmet. That's true. The helmet topic is controversial and upsetting to some and disregarded by others, but it would be amiss not to mention it because NMDOT cares. For now, New Mexican's have a choice to make.

Pedestrian Deaths Are on the Rise – What You Can Do To Stay Safe

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Pedestrians:

- **Be Safe & Be Seen** – Make yourself visible to drivers by wearing bright/light colored clothing and/or reflective materials.
- **Be Smart & Alert** – Avoid dangerous behaviors (like texting and walking), and use sidewalks when available
- **Be Careful at Crossings** – Look before you step off the curb and always use a marked crosswalk when available
- **Be Aware** – vehicles turning right or left can be a hazard at an intersection

Drivers:

- **Be Alert** – Watch for pedestrians at all times
- **Be Responsible** – Yield to pedestrians at crossings
- **Be Patient** – Drive the speed limit and avoid aggressive driving behavior
- **Be Aware** – Watch for pedestrians when turning left or right

For more information about the LOOK FOR ME travel safety campaign, or for more resources about pedestrian safety, [CLICK HERE](#).

April

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
Alcohol Awareness Month

9-12 National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program – ALBUQUERQUE

12 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque Fire Station #7
5715 Central Ave. NW
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Child Safety Seat Clinic – DEMING
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Luna County Parents as Teachers Court
House Park, 700 S. Silver Ave.

18 Transportation Commission Meeting – ALBUQUERQUE

20 Child Safety Seat Clinic – LAS CRUCES
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Las Cruces Fire Department
Young Park, 850 S. Walnut

20 Child Safety Seat Clinic – LAS CRUCES
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., NMSU Fire
Department, 1510 Wells St.

24 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
Kirtland Air Force Base, Marquez Park
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Child Safety Seat Clinic – CLAYTON
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
National Guard Armory – 25 Air Park St.

25 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Native American Professional Parent
Resources, Inc. 2201 San Pedro NE

26 Selective Traffic Enforcement Training (STEP) – ALBUQUERQUE

Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Isleta Head Start &
Child Care, 2 Sagebrush St.

27 Child Safety Seat Clinic – PORTALES
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Roosevelt General Hospital, 42121 US

Child Safety Seat Clinic – CARLSBAD
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Community Action
Head Start 1915 San Jose Blvd.

May

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

1-7 Mini Superblitz (ENDWI and BKLUP)

4 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Western Sky
Community Care National Hispanic
Cultural Center 1701 4th St. SW

Child Safety Seat Clinic – SANTA FE
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Capitol Ford
Dealership 4490 Cerrillos Rd.

8-9 Law Enforcement Coordinators' Symposium – ALBUQUERQUE

13-24 At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation Training – ALBUQUERQUE

18 Child Safety Seat Clinic – ALBUQUERQUE
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Metro Public Safety
Day & Recruitment Event Cottonwood Mall,
10000 Coors Bypass NW

Child Safety Seat Clinic – GRANTS
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Superior Ambulance
Cibola General Hospital, 1016 E. Roosevelt

May 20 -
June 2 Click It Or Ticket

22 Transportation Commission Meeting – LAS CRUCES

Child Safety Seat Clinic – SANTA FE
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Busy Bugs
Head Start, 5600 Agua Fria St.

June

National Safety Month

May 20 -
June 2 Click It Or Ticket

11-14 National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program – GALLUP

14 Child Safety Seat Clinic – GALLUP
Location TBD, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

17-28 Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation Training – ALBUQUERQUE

17 National Ride to Work Day

21 Selective Traffic Enforcement Training (STEP) – ALAMOGORDO



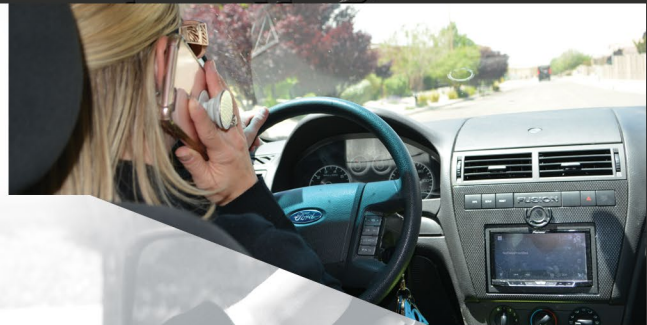
Due to ongoing updates to the calendar of events, please **CLICK HERE** or visit www.safernm.org for the most current list.

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

Alamogordo Third Saturday of each month	(505) 439-4300
Albuquerque: NE 2nd 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 Wednesday of each month	(800) 231-6145
Rio Rancho First Friday of each month	(800) 231-6145
Santa Fe 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month	(505) 471-3965 (800) 231-6145



Distracted Driving: Talking Not Texting Accounts for Most Phone Use, Drivers Say

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.IIHS.ORG/IIHS/SR/STATUSREPORT/ARTICLE/54/1/2](https://www.iihs.org/iihs/sr/statusreport/article/54/1/2)

Drivers say they use their smartphones more often for calls than for texting, or reading or sending emails, a nationwide survey of smartphone users by IIHS indicates.

From January to March 2018, IIHS surveyed adult drivers who own smartphones to see how they use them while driving. Eighty percent of the 800 drivers surveyed reported talking on their phone while driving in the previous 30 days, and 30 percent said they talk on the phone daily. Most drivers who reported talking on the phone said they only do so hands-free using voice commands.

When IIHS conducted the survey, 15 states and the District of Columbia banned talking on a hand-held cellphone while driving. Georgia in July 2018 became the 16th state with a hand-held phone ban. Texting is banned for all drivers in 47 states and D.C.

Thirty-one percent of respondents in states without a hand-held phone ban reported that they sometimes engage in hand-held conversations, compared with 14 percent of drivers surveyed in states with a hand-held phone ban.

Thirty-eight percent of drivers surveyed said they had read emails or texts while driving during the past month, and a

third surveyed reported that they sent emails or texts. This percentage is in line with the 2017 Traffic Safety Culture Index survey by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety finding that about a third of respondents said they had typed or sent a text or email while driving in the past 30 days.

“Manipulating a cellphone increases the chances of a crash, so it is worrisome that drivers admit to texting, even though the practice is banned in most states,” says Jessica Cicchino, IIHS vice president for research, who co-authored the study with Ian Reagan, a senior research scientist with the Institute.

Middle-age drivers gab most often. Sixty-four percent of drivers age 30 to 59 reported talking on their phone a few times a week or more either hands-free or hand-held, compared with 44 percent of drivers ages 25-29, 37 percent of drivers ages 18-24 and 36 percent of drivers age 60 and older.

In the survey, men were 22 percent more likely to report making phone calls a few times a week or more while driving in the past 30 days than women.

Smartphone ownership in the U.S. is widespread. In 2018, 77 percent of the U.S. population owned a smartphone, up from 35 percent in 2011, according to the Pew Research Center.