



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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Jeff Barela Named Director of New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) recently announced Jeff Barela as the new Director of the Traffic Safety Division. Mr. Barela is a native of Santa Fe where he attended St. Michael's High School. He pursued a Bachelor's from the University of New Mexico in Organizational Communication and then received a Master's of Business Administration from New Mexico Highlands University. Prior to coming to the NMDOT Traffic Safety Division, he served as the Executive Director for the Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board. In this capacity he administered the federally funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to help train unemployed and underemployed individuals to meet the workforce needs throughout northern New Mexico. He has a broad range of governmental experience spanning nine years, including previously working at the NMDOT Traffic Safety Division, the New Mexico Human Services Income Support Division and the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions in various capacities.



CLICK FOR FULL REPORT

New Mexico Seat Belt Use Increases in 2019

The New Mexico Department of Transportation and Preusser Research Group completed the annual New Mexico Occupant Seat Belt Observation Study. The study found New Mexico's seat belt use rate is 91.8%—an increase from previous years and higher than the national average.

New Mexico has conducted a seat belt study annually since 1982. The study uses a sampling design approved by and aligned with requirements from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Road segments from 19 of the State's 33 counties, which account for 85.5% of passenger vehicle crash-related fatalities, were sampled for inclusion in the current study.



Observations were recorded on Primary, Secondary, and Local roads. Quality control measures were utilized to ensure valid and reliable observation results. Observations are made before the Click it or Ticket enhanced enforcement campaign, and taken again after the campaign has ended. The 2019 study summarizes the results of both the daytime and nighttime observations.

Given that the seat belt use rate has been declining over the last three years, this increase is promising. In the findings, Preusser Research Group found an increase in both the daytime and nighttime seat belt use rates. Recommendations include continuing and increasing the use of timely and strong high-visibility programming and enhanced enforcement campaigns, such as Click it or Ticket. To read the full report, visit <https://www.safemm.org/safe-driving/seat-belt-safety/>.



NMDOT Promotes Traffic Safety at State Fair, Law Enforcement Day

"It's a great opportunity to reach so many New Mexicans in our collective effort to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries," said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval.

Representatives from the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD), in collaboration with Safer New Mexico Now (Safer) and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation handed out safety information at an information booth during the opening day of the New Mexico State Fair at Expo New Mexico. Opening day was also law enforcement day, and hundreds of dedicated men and women of law enforcement were admitted free with a valid ID.

"It's a great opportunity to reach so many New Mexicans in our collective effort to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries," said Transportation Secretary Mike Sandoval. "People of all ages can see our department is about more than just building roads. We're building trust with the community and showcasing our partnership with law enforcement and other traffic safety agencies," Sandoval said.

Fair goers could virtually experience a drunk driving crash through a DWI virtual reality demonstration. Visitors also had the opportunity to learn about the importance of proper car seat selection, installation, and use, bicycle helmet and pedestrian safety, as well as proper motorcycle training – including a kick-start simulator.

A great time was had by all who visited the State Fair in support of law enforcement. The crowd was delighted when Bucklebear made an appearance—helping teach young children and their families about the importance of always buckling their seat belts.





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

October

- 2 Walk to School Day
- 5-13 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- 6-12 National Fire Prevention Week
- 7-11 National Drive Safely Work Week
- 10 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day
- 12 Cy's Inaugural Car Seat Clinic, ARTESIA
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Artesia Bulldog Stadium,
406 S. 16th St.

Child Safety Seat Clinic, LOS LUNAS
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Los Lunas Middle School,
423 Main St.
- 17 New Mexico Child Safety Seat Distribution Site Annual
Meeting, Sandia Resort, ALBUQUERQUE
Transportation Commission Meeting, JAL, NM
- 19 Child Safety Seat Clinic, ALBUQUERQUE
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Home Depot,
1220 Renaissance Blvd. NE

Child Safety Seat Clinic, LAS CRUCES
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Paul's United Methodist Church,
225 W. Griggs
- 20-25 National Teen Driver Safety Week
- 21- Nov 1 Traffic Crash Reconstruction Training: ALBUQUERQUE
- 21-25 National School Bus Safety Week
- 25 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Training,
RIO RANCHO

November

- Oct 21-1 Traffic Crash Reconstruction Training: ALBUQUERQUE
- Nov 8-Jan 4 Superblitz: ENDWI and BKLUP
- 8 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Training,
CARLSBAD
- 8-Jan 4 Superblitz: ENDWI and BKLUP
- 21 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Training,
ALBUQUERQUE
Transportation Commission Meeting, LAS VEGAS, NM
- 25-Dec 1 National Teens Don't Text and Drive Week

December

- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
- Nov 8-Jan 4 Superblitz: ENDWI and BKLUP
- Nov 25- 1 National Teens Don't Text and Drive Week
- 1-7 Older Driver Safety Awareness Week
- 4 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Training,
BLOOMFIELD
- 11-13 New Mexico Law Enforcement Conference: Albuquerque,
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1901 University Blvd. NE
- 13-Jan 1 Don't Shatter the Dream: National Native American
Holiday DWI Crackdown

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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 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
Carlsbad Third Thursday of each month	(800) 231-6145
Deming First Wednesday of each month	(575) 546-9254
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



National School Bus Safety Week

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.NAPT.ORG/FILES/NSBSW/BUS%20STOP%20SAFETY%20TIPS-2016UPDATE.PDF](https://www.napt.org/files/nsbsw/bus%20stop%20safety%20tips-2016update.pdf)

Did you know more than 25 million children ride a bus to school every day? Held during the third full week of October each year, National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and others to address the importance of school bus safety. In celebration of National School Bus Safety Week, the National Association of Pupil Transportation has tips on keeping our kids safer at the bus stop. [CLICK FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)



Winter Weather Driving Tips

SOURCE: NMDOT

Winter-weather is here and the New Mexico Department of Transportation is ready. The NMDOT is working around the clock to monitor the roads, report road conditions, spread salt and cinder and plow snow if necessary. In coordination with law enforcement, the NMDOT has some advice for drivers when traveling through unfavorable road conditions.

Tips to Know ►



- **WEAR YOUR SEATBELT**
Make sure everyone in the vehicle is properly buckled up.
- **REDUCE YOUR SPEED**
The best crash prevention on snow and ice is to SLOW DOWN and leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- **PRACTICE GOOD WINTER DRIVING TECHNIQUES**
Keep your gas tank full, turn on your head lights, keep your windshield washer fluid full with antifreeze, keep winter driving chains in your vehicle, have a winter survival kit which includes – flashlight, hand warmers packets, first aid supplies, high energy snacks, bottled water, medications and read your owner's manual for special instructions on driving 4-wheel drive vehicles and vehicles with ABS on snow and ice.
- **AVOID DRIVING IN A SNOW CLOUD**
Large vehicles, such as semi-trailer trucks and snow plows, may produce dense clouds of blowing snow that make it difficult for drivers to see. When drivers encounter snow clouds, they should stay back to avoid the cloud.
- **PLAN AHEAD AND BE PATIENT**
Delays are common during bad weather. Leave a little earlier and pack your patience.
- **CHECK BEFORE YOU PASS**
Know where a snow plow and blade are positioned on the road before trying to pass. On multi-lane highways, the plow can be in your blind spot. Before attempting to pass make sure it is safe.
- **PAY ATTENTION TO WEATHER FORECASTS –TRUST THEM**
Winter storms can become severe quickly, plan ahead and check the weather.
- **DO NOT USE CRUISE CONTROL**
Never use cruise control when the roads are slick. Using your cruise control can reduce your handling of the vehicle if your tires begin to skid or slip.
- **KNOW YOUR CURRENT ROAD CONDITIONS**
Visit the NMDOT website for current road advisory information at <http://nmroads.com>, or dial 511 in the state.

Content and Design by Tura Linderholm and Michelle Cisewski

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