

NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Mike Sandoval Thanks Essential Workers

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NMDOT/](https://www.facebook.com/NMDOT/)



CLICK to play FULL VIDEO MESSAGE
Photos: <https://www.facebook.com/NMDOT/>



The New Mexico Department of Transportation Cabinet Secretary Mike Sandoval recently thanked essential workers and road crews who are continuing to work through the pandemic. According to the short video, Secretary Sandoval says that although many New Mexicans are working from home, more than 1,300 NMDOT employees are continuing to work in the field.

Traffic Safety Community Urges Safer Driving During Coronavirus Pandemic

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.GHSA.ORG/RESOURCES/NEWS-RELEASES/CORONAVIRUS-RECKLESS-DRIVING20](https://www.ghsa.org/resources/news-releases/coronavirus-reckless-driving20)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Empty streets may be encouraging some drivers to flout traffic safety laws, including speed limits. Despite there being far fewer vehicles on the road due to COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, state highway safety officials across the country are seeing a severe spike in speeding. Many states have reported alarming speed increases, with some noting a significant surge in vehicles clocked at 100 mph or more.

Being a safe driver should always be a priority, but during the coronavirus pandemic, traffic safety experts at the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) say it is more important than ever. “While COVID-19 is clearly our national priority, our traffic safety laws cannot be ignored,” said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins. “Law enforcement officials have the same mission as health care providers — to save lives. If you must drive, buckle up, follow the posted speed limit and look out for pedestrians and bicyclists. Emergency rooms in many areas of the country are at capacity, and the last thing they need is additional strain from traffic crash victims.”

During the past month, pedestrian and bicycle traffic are reported to have increased exponentially, while motor vehicle traffic is down. Adkins noted that GHSA is encouraged to see so many communities across the country making roadways more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. To keep roads safe for everyone, traffic safety officials nationwide are pleading with motorists to slow down and respect traffic safety laws.



HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF THE RECKLESS DRIVER BEHAVIORS REPORTED RECENTLY:

- In **Colorado, Indiana, Nebraska** and **Utah**, police have clocked highway speeds of over 100 mph.
- State police in **Florida** and **Iowa** are reporting drivers going 20 to 40 miles over the posted speed limit.
- In **New York City**, despite far fewer vehicles on the road, the city’s automated speed cameras issued 24,765 speeding tickets citywide on March 27, or nearly double the 12,672 tickets issued daily a month earlier. In **Los Angeles**, speeds are up by as much as 30% on some streets, prompting changes to traffic lights and pedestrian walk signals.

Monsoon Road Safety

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNALSAZ.COM/ARTICLES/MONSOON-ROAD-SAFETY-TIPS/](https://www.signalsaz.com/articles/monsoon-road-safety-tips/)

The National Weather Service established June 15-September 30 as the official monsoon season. During this period, New Mexico experiences more rain and severe weather, and travel can be more difficult.

Here are a few tips to keep you safer on the road during the monsoon season

Go Slow and Always Wear Your Seatbelt

Road conditions may make traveling the posted speed limit unsafe. If it is a highly rainy day, water may pool on the roads, which could cause hydroplaning if you are traveling too fast.

Keep Your Distance

Leave plenty of room between your vehicle and other vehicles during inclement weather.

Turn Around, Don't Drown

Never enter an area that has been barricaded due to flooding. It very dangerous (and costly) if you get stuck and need rescuing.

Headlights on for Safety

Make sure others can see you on the road and that you can see the road by turning on your headlights.

Pull Aside, Stay Alive

If you find yourself in heavy winds, rain, or a dust storm, make sure you keep a strong grip on your vehicle to avoid swerving. If you feel you need to wait out the storm, pull as far off to the right side of the road as possible – not on the roadway or shoulder area. Turn off your lights and your engine and keep your foot off the brake pedal. If other drivers see your brake lights they may assume you are on the road.

Stay Alert

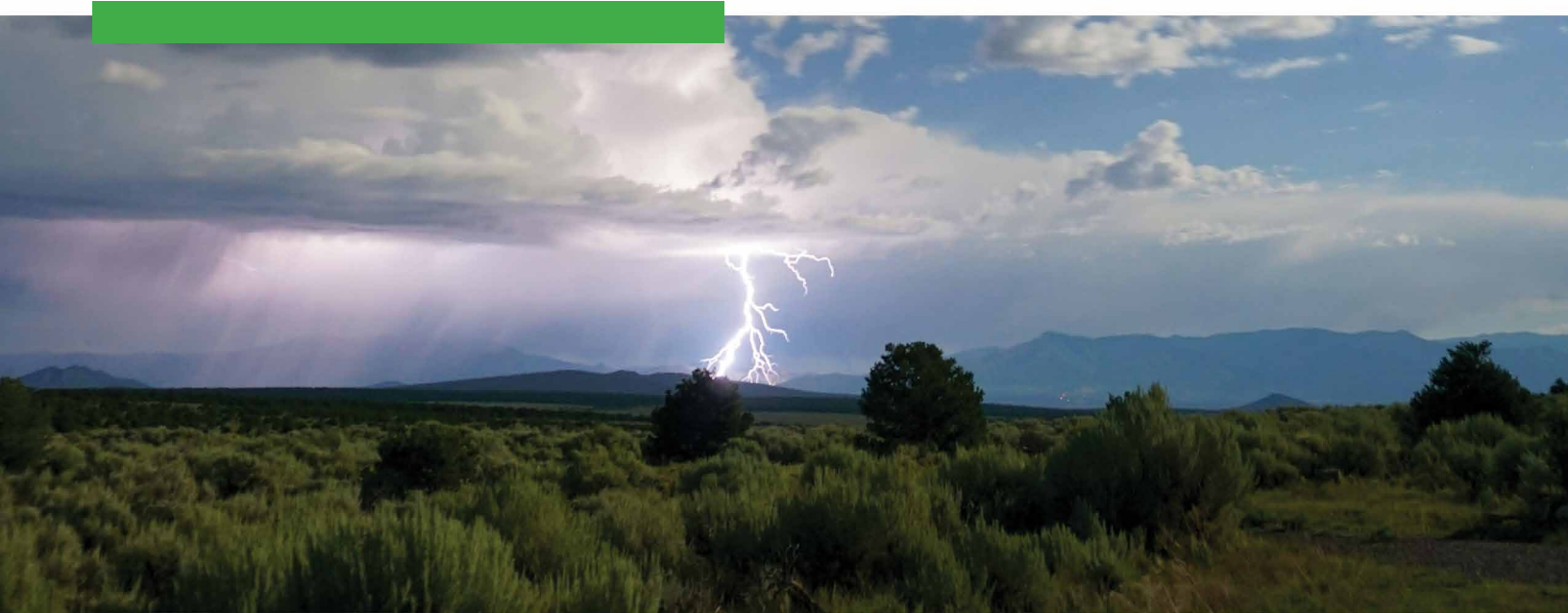
Storm runoff can loosen boulders and rocks, be alert and look out for falling rocks.

Follow Outage Guidelines

If traffic lights are out, treat an intersection like a four-way stop.

Be Patient and Courteous

Highway safety is everyone's responsibility. Do your part to keep yourself and fellow New Mexicans safe on the road.



NMDOT to Remove Signs on State Road Right-of-Ways

SOURCES: [HTTPS://WWW.RDRNEWS.COM/2020/05/27/NMDOT-TO-REMOVE-SIGNS-ON-STATE-ROAD-RIGHT-OF-WAYS/](https://www.rdrnews.com/2020/05/27/nmdot-to-remove-signs-on-state-road-right-of-ways/) NMDOT PRESS RELEASE

During this campaign and election year, the state Department of Transportation reminds residents, candidates, and campaigns that state law prohibits any person from “placing, maintaining or displaying any unauthorized sign upon any highway.”

Especially during election years, signs are often posted on state road right-of-ways, according to a recent press release. New Mexico Criminal and Traffic Law 66-7-108, under the title “Display of Unauthorized Signs, Signals and Markings,” states specifically that no political sign postings are allowed on state-maintained right-of-ways, which are typically defined by fencing on rural routes and to the back of the curb on urban routes.

Signs that encroach on the right-of-way — including signs mounted to the fencing or signs/signal support posts — will be removed, the press release states.

NMDOT maintenance patrols are instructed to remove all signs, political or otherwise, that have been illegally placed within state road right-of-ways. Any item that impedes the roadway or right-of-way can be considered a safety issue to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Anyone believing their signs have been removed and collected from a state road right-of-way by the department is welcome to contact a local NMDOT district office to collect the signs at an agreed-upon time and district location within two weeks, the press release states.

The department does not guarantee the NMDOT will have the signs nor that they will be maintained in their original condition.



Due to ongoing updates to the calendar of events, please [CLICK HERE](#) or visit 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 Education Sessions are taking place by appointment only. Please call **(800) 231-6145** for additional information.

NMLETP courses are being scheduled VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON.
Please check our website for course information: [CLICK HERE](#)

NMDOT TSD and Safer New Mexico Now Offer Virtual Training for Law Enforcement

In an effort to provide continuous training service to the New Mexico law enforcement community, and in compliance with the governor's order mandating no large gatherings, the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD) and Safer New Mexico Now (Safer), will begin hosting Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) VIRTUAL STEP courses.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL STEP COURSES

Trainings will be held from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** on the following dates:

CLASS FULL
REGISTRATION
CLOSED

FRIDAY
JUL 10, 2020

FRIDAY
JUL 24, 2020

REGISTER



When registering for the course, you will be required to provide a VALID EMAIL ADDRESS for the attendee. Further information regarding the course will be provided through this email.

For further information, or for questions, contact Safer at **(800) 231-6145**.



To attend the virtual training, participants must have access to Zoom through a computer desktop or the Zoom mobile app.

DOWNLOAD APP



UPCOMING IN PERSON **DWI** **CHECKPOINT** **OPERATION** TRAINING COURSES

COVID PROTOCOLS
WILL APPLY

FRIDAY
JUL 24, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Pecos River Village
Conference Center, Room 5
711 Muscatell Avenue
CARLSBAD

REGISTER

FRIDAY
JUL 31, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sandoval County
1500 A Idalia Road
BERNALILLO

REGISTER

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"During the past two months, Americans nationwide have shown that we are all willing to do the right thing to protect ourselves and each other," said Pam Shadel Fischer, GHSA's Senior Director of External Engagement and Special Projects. "We must maintain that same sense of urgency when it comes to the road. Drivers need to respect the law and look out for other road users, so that we can prevent the needless loss of life now and moving forward."

A 2019 report on speeding by GHSA, "Speeding Away from Zero: Rethinking a Forgotten Traffic Safety Challenge," highlights excessive vehicle speed as a persistent factor in nearly one-third of all motor vehicle-related fatalities, while a 2020 GHSA report on pedestrian fatalities, published in February, finds that pedestrians now account for 17% of all traffic-related fatalities.

Despite the fact that a significant percentage of all crashes are speeding-related, speeding is not given enough attention as a traffic safety issue and is deemed culturally acceptable by the motoring public. To combat this problem, GHSA, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF) have partnered to provide up to \$200,000 in grant funding to a community to develop, implement and evaluate a speed management pilot program. The organizations are looking for a pilot program that can be scaled nationally and plan to announce the grant winner in May.

- Some states are finding reduced crash rates but more serious crashes. In **Massachusetts**, the fatality rate for car crashes is rising, and in **Nevada** and **Rhode Island**, state officials note pedestrian fatalities are rising.
- In **Minnesota**, motor vehicle crashes and fatalities have more than doubled compared to the same time period in previous years. Half those deaths were related to speeding or to careless or negligent driving.

New Virtual Car Seat Inspections

AVAILABLE IN JULY SOURCE: NMDOT TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

 **YouTube** Click to Play on YouTube

SANTA FE – Car seat inspections are still possible by way of virtual instruction. The New Mexico Department of Transportation's Traffic Safety Division and Safer New Mexico Now will host virtual car seat education sessions through Zoom.

The one on one sessions will provide parents and caregivers instruction on the proper selection, installation and use of their car seats from nationally certified child passenger safety technicians.

Beginning this July, the virtual sessions will occur every **first and third Wednesday of the month between noon and 2 p.m.** Sessions are by appointment only. All participants will be required to electronically sign a waiver of liability prior to their scheduled session.

Parents and caregivers must have a valid email address, access to the internet or Wi-Fi and the ability to use Zoom through the website.

[GO TO ZOOM](#)

Additional requirements include:

- › Car or booster seat, along with the manual
- › Vehicle manual
- › Laptop or smartphone with video capabilities
- › The child's exact height and weight
- › Child should be present if possible
- › A second person may be helpful to assist with camera/video session

Technicians will spend approximately 30 minutes per seat providing education on the correct selection, installation and use of their car or booster seat. Parents and caregivers will also learn important information regarding common errors in car seat safety and be able to ask questions.

Due to the governor's COVID-19 mandates and social distancing requirements, **replacement seats will not be available.**

The virtual car seat education sessions are a **free public service funded by the NMDOT** and are available to everyone.

For more information or to make an appointment: **(800) 231-6145**

Content and Design by Tura Linderholm and Michelle Cisewski

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