

Traffic Safety News

NEW MEXICO STATE HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU

<http://www.unm.edu/~dgrint/tsb.html>

June 2003

Mark Your Calendars

Driver Instructor Certification
Classes

Behind the Wheel, July 7 - 11
Classroom Curriculum,
July 21 - 25

Refresher/Recertification,
August 8

Traffic Safety Bureau

Contact: Institute of Public Law
505-277-5006

July 16 - 17

Interagency Policy Training
Workshops on Underage
Drinking

Albuquerque, free, CYFD Contact:
Annjenette Torres
1-800-610-7610, ext. 7-6325

July 20 - 23

American Prosecutors
Research Institute & the
National College of District
Attorneys Conference

Snowmass, CO
www.ndaa-apri.org

August 8

DWI School Instructor
Training

Traffic Safety Bureau, Contact:
Institute of Public Law
505-277-5006

National Judicial College

August 25 - 28

Sentencing Motor Vehicle Law
Offenders

November 3 - 4

DUI Primer for New Judges

Reno NV, Contact: Mary Ann Aguirre
775-784-6747

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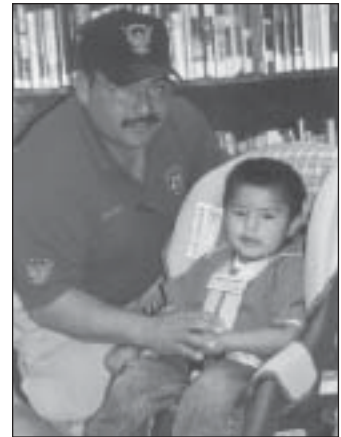
Agencies Work Together for Child Passenger Safety

Rick Leslie, Environmental Project Coordinator for the Tohijiilee/Cañoncito Band of Navajos, had plenty of help with the Injury Prevention 2003 Child Safety Seat Clinic. The Navajo Nation Highway Safety Department, New Mexico State Police, and Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department all traveled to Tohajiilee, 30 miles west of Albuquerque, to train parents on the use and installation of child safety seats provided by Safer New Mexico Now, through grants from Indian Health Services and the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau.

Juanita Atcitty, who was hit by a drunk driver just three miles from her home, stressed the importance of always buckling up and securing children in child safety seats to the parents, grandparents and caregivers present. She said, "These are your children. These are their lives." Then she told them about a baby who died instantly in a crash. The baby's back was broken as his cradle board snapped in half. He would be alive today if he'd been in a child safety seat and not strapped to his cradle board.

Child car seats can often seem intimidating to use. Here are some tips to help.

The safest place for a car seat is in the middle of the back seat. Never put children in the front seat near an airbag.



BCSO Deputy Richard Castillo checks the fit on Dallas Morris' new car seat.

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Child Safety Seat Technicians (top l-r) Derrick Yazzie, Gilbert Garcia, Juanita Atcitty, Mark McCracken, Scott Meeks, (bottom l-r) Paul Chavez, Rick Leslie, and Richard Castillo installed 32 car seats at the Tohajiilee/Cañoncito Injury Prevention Project 2003 event.

A Message from TSB Chief Virginia Jaramillo

Summer is almost here and that means backyard parties and get-togethers with family and friends. If you will be serving alcohol at your party, do it responsibly. You want your guests to enjoy themselves but you don't want any harm to come to them. Nor do you want to be cited for serving minors or held responsible for the death or injury of intoxicated guests.

Here are a few tips on hosting your party responsibly.

Never serve alcohol to people under age 21. Regardless of what they say, never serve alcohol to minors.

Provide food. Drinking on an empty stomach causes problems. Provide substantial food, not just salty chips. The best party foods are those that take longer to digest such as bread, tortillas, pasta, potatoes, meat and cheese. Place food where it is easily seen or pass it around. Few people can resist a tasty treat. Eating takes the focus away from drinking and slows alcohol absorption into the bloodstream. Serve coffee with a snack or supper towards the end of the party.

Serve non-alcoholic drinks. Plan to provide low-alcohol and no-alcohol drinks. They're popular with guests, especially those who don't drink alcohol or will be driving.

Plan activities. The purpose of your party is to have fun. Along with providing food, plan to have something for your guests to do. Boredom is one reason people drink too much, so keep them entertained.

Stop serving alcohol. An hour before you plan to end your party,



stop serving alcohol. It takes time for your guests to sober up.

Plan for safe transportation.

If your efforts to promote moderate drinking fall short, don't allow intoxicated guests to drive. The UNM Division of Government Research, on behalf of TSB, reports that there were 224 alcohol-involved fatalities in 2002.

Don't allow your guests to become statistics in 2003. Arrange for a taxi or designated driver to take them home. AAA New Mexico offers "Tipsy Tow" on most holidays (1-800-AAA-Help). If they balk, remind your guests that law enforcement is operating checkpoints and saturation patrols in the area. Everyone in New Mexico has heard, "If you don't stop drinking and driving, WE'LL STOP YOU!"



Have your guest spend the night.

And keep an eye on him/her. It's estimated that 4,000 people die each year from acute alcohol intoxication. (Teenagers are particularly vulnerable because of their inexperience with alcohol.) Rapid binge drinking, which often happens on a bet or dare, is especially dangerous because the drinker can

ingest a fatal dose of alcohol before becoming unconscious. When the drinker "passes out," well meaning family and friends put him/her to bed to "sleep it off" only to find the drinker dead in the morning.

Alcohol depresses nerves that control involuntary actions such as breathing, heartbeat, and the gag reflex, which prevents choking. A fatal dose of alcohol will stop these functions. After your guest stops drinking, his/her heart keeps beating, and alcohol in the stomach continues to enter the bloodstream and circulate throughout the body.

Look for these symptoms of acute alcohol poisoning:

- Mental confusion, stupor, coma - the person can't be roused.
- No response to pinching the skin.
- Vomiting while sleeping.
- Seizures.
- Slow breathing (less than eight breaths per minute).
- Irregular breathing (ten seconds or more between breaths).
- Hypothermia (low body temperature), bluish fingernails, lips, skin color, paleness.

This is what you should do.

Be aware that the person who has "passed out" may die. Alcohol poisoning is a medical emergency. Call 911; do not hesitate. Turn the person on his/her side to keep from choking and aspirating vomit. Stay with the person until help arrives. Monitor breathing; begin artificial respiration if the person is not breathing.

Don't be afraid to seek medical help for someone who has had too much to drink. And don't worry that your friend may become angry or embarrassed. You did the right thing. You cared enough to save a life.

DWI Bill Blues

By Carolyn Johnson

Full text at: <http://ipl.unm.edu/traf/>.



House Bill 117, the 2003 New Mexico Legislature's omnibus DWI bill, may be in trouble. Governor Richardson signed HB 278, several days later, which amended the same section of the law, 66-8-102. Under state law, if multiple bills amend the same section of the law, the last one signed is presumed to be the one that takes effect.

The New Mexico Compilation Commission, made up of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, clerk of the Supreme Court and attorney general, will decide the issue.

In years past, two bills amending the same subsection of the law that didn't conflict were often both compiled into the statutes. However, *both* bills here amend subsection 66-8-102(M) - whether this constitutes a conflict is open to question.

HB 117 has more jail, treatment, standardized screening and tracking, a third degree felony for hard core offenders, and up to two years mandatory jail for those who continue drinking and driving. HB

278 allows the state and tribes to share MVD offense information.

It's been suggested that the legislature resolve the issue at the special session in September by re-amending 66-8-102.

Survey Shows Drop In Alcohol Usage

John Steiner and Jill Anne Yeagley of the UNM Campus Office of Substance Abuse report that the results of the UNM Spring 2003 CORE Survey have arrived and the news is good. The survey, done by CORE Institute, an arm of Illinois State University, is one of the largest and most reliable college drinking surveys in the United States. The survey sampled 684 undergraduates at the University of New Mexico Albuquerque campus.



The following are comparisons with the 2002 CORE Survey done a year ago:

Students reported:
 Consuming alcohol in the past 30 days - down from 77.1% to 68.9%,
 Binge Drinking in the past two weeks - down from 41.0% to

37.6%, Underage drinking in the past 30 days - down from 73.8% to 60.2%. And, Driving while under the influence - down from 43.8% to 41.1% . (This also dropped about 2% from 2001 to 2002 - a very positive trend!)

Steiner says this success is due in part to the collaboration between TSB and UNM/COSAP. Prevention efforts including the designated driver program, social norms marketing campaign, and COSAP outreach are making a difference.

Calendar Continued from page 1

September 18 - 20
OJJDP 4th Annual National Leadership Conference
 Atlanta, Georgia. Free conference, register online at: www.dgimeetings.com/NLC/

September 23
Financial Management Training (Mandatory for Grantees)
 Albuquerque, 8am - 12pm
 Traffic Safety Bureau
 Contact: Eddie Pacheco
 505-827-1579

October 8
Walk to School Day
www.walktoschool-usa.org/

Any individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in a Traffic Safety Bureau meeting, or who needs copies of meeting materials in an accessible form, may contact the Traffic Safety Bureau at 1-800-541-7952 at least ten days before the meeting for assistance.

New Mexico Traffic Fatalities

	April 2003*/	April 2002
Total April Fatalities	27	35
Year to Date (YTD)	109	137
YTD Alcohol Involved	32 (29.36%)	75 (54.74%)
No Restraints Used	41 (55.4%)	60 (57.69%)
YTD Teen Fatalities	19	17
YTD Teen Alcohol Involved	7 (46.7%)	9 (52.9%)

*2003 data is preliminary, and alcohol percentage calculations exclude unknown involvements.

Note: At the time you receive this newsletter, more recent data may have been published. Check the University of New Mexico Division of Government Research website at: <http://www.unm.edu/~dgrint/fars/thisyear.html> for updated material.

Fatalities Stats Revised

Jim Davis of the UNM Division of Government Research has received the final fatalities log for 2002. It now shows 449 fatalities for 2002.

Child Passenger Safety Continued from page 1

For children less than one year old and not over 20 pounds, the car seat should face the rear of the vehicle and recline at a 45 degree angle.

Harness straps should be at or slightly below the shoulders for both infants in rear-facing car seats and toddlers in front-facing car seats. A harness is properly fitted when you can't insert more than two fingers under it.

Children over 40 pounds, should use a booster seat until they can sit in a vehicle's rear seat with their knees bent comfortably over the edge with the vehicle shoulder belt crossing mid-chest and the lap belt snug across their thighs. Children should **never** ride unbelted or in the bed of a pick up truck.

A secure car seat should not be able to move more than an inch forward or sideways. Always try to buy a new

car seat. Try it out in your vehicle and return it if it's difficult to use or install.

Don't accept a hand-me-down with an unknown history or one more than six years old. If you must use a used seat, check for National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration recalls at www.nhtsa.gov.

Never use a car seat that's been in a crash. And remember to send in your warranty card so you'll be notified if there's a recall.

Contact Safer New Mexico Now at 505-332-7707 to have your child's car seat checked or the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau at 1-800-541-7952 for more information.

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Day



The NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau, NM State Police, UNM Institute of Public Law, NM Motorcycle Safety Program, Brain Injury Association of New Mexico, MVD, and Clear Channel Communications partnered with Rex's Hamburgers and motorcycle vendors for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Day 2003 at University Arena in Albuquerque, May 3rd.



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