

Traffic Safety News

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU

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

June 2004

Mark Your Calendars

August 9 - 22

Superblitz - Statewide

Sponsored by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau & conducted by Safer New Mexico Now. Contact: Eileen Rios at 1-800-231-6145 or (505)471-3965, www.safernm.org.

August 26 - 28

OJJDP 5th Annual National Leadership Conference on Underage Drinking, San Diego, See www.udetc.org.

August 27 - September 12

You Drink & Drive. You Lose Crackdown

NHTSA, see information at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/StopImpairedydyllaboraday04.htm>.

August 31 - September 1

DWI Prosecutor Training

NM State Bar, Albuquerque, for attorneys and law enforcement officers who act as prosecutors.

September - Date TBA

Teaching Techniques, Albuquerque. For new driver education instructors who do not have a background in education. Check website for date and time.

Both trainings sponsored by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau, conducted by UNM Institute of Public Law. For more information, contact Carolyn Johnson at 505-277-8790 or check the website at: <http://ipl.unm.edu/traf>.

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Click It or Ticket!



L-R Officers John Francis, Mark Velarde, Nadine Hamby, Bill Henz, and Wayne Harvey enlisted the aid of UNM Lobo football players Billy Brittain and Bryan Humphries for *Click It or Ticket* public service announcements, developed by the New Mexico State Tourism Department as the first project of their new statewide marketing office.

Law enforcement agencies throughout New Mexico have been cracking down on seat belt use as part of the national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization. *Click It or Ticket* promotes the enforcement of seat belt laws and expanded patrols by city, state and tribal officers in conjunction with a media campaign and pre-and-post mobilization seat belt surveys.

Funding for the mobilization was provided by two federal grants totaling \$1.4 million awarded to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for having one of the highest rates of seat belt usage in the nation. An \$884,000 grant was awarded for having a higher seat belt rate than the national rate (79%) along with a \$590,000 grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for New Mexico's participation in the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization.

"New Mexico is currently fifth in the nation in seat belt use with a rate of 87.2%, but we are striving for the number one position," said Rhonda Fought, Secretary of the NMDOT. "We are pleased to be recognized for

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A Message from NMDOT Secretary

Rhonda Faught

Governor Richardson and the NMDOT are committed to stopping DWI in New Mexico.

The Governor recently took action in three critical areas to eliminate DWI.

Reduce DWI on New Mexico roads. In coordination with the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau and Safer New Mexico Now, Governor Richardson implemented "Project End-Dependence", a statewide 14-day Superblitz by the New Mexico State Police and local law enforcement agencies from July 1 - July 14.

Saturation patrols and DWI checkpoints targeted Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Roswell, Espanola, State Road 76, State Road 68, Gallup, Clovis, Farmington, Alamogordo and

Deming. Over the Fourth of July holiday alone, police stopped 4,277 vehicles and made 85 arrests.

Governor Richardson also increased the annual number of Superblitzes from four to seven, saying, "It's time to stop the tremendous harm and tragedy resulting from DWI in New Mexico. I will not tolerate DWI."

Increase the capability to prosecute offenders. As requested by the Governor, the New Mexico Supreme Court modified the "six month rule" (Metropolitan Court Criminal Rule 7-140) in June. Up until now, some DWIs have been dismissed in New Mexico courts because of clogged dockets and the inability of judges to hear cases

before the 182 day limitation. The courts now have more flexibility to hear cases and grant extensions to ensure that offenders do not escape prosecution due to a technicality.

Involve the Judiciary in the Solution. Governor Richardson has called for a summit between the executive and judicial branches of government to address DWI and drug use in New Mexico. The judiciary will provide its perspective from the bench - what works, what's broken and needs to be fixed, and what resources will be needed to do the job. Once armed with this information, the executive branch can work with the legislative branch to create a plan that will ensure that DWI and drug offenders will be caught and successfully prosecuted making our state safer for all New Mexicans.

Through our joint efforts and these initiatives, we can stop DWI in New Mexico.

Click It or Ticket Continued from page 1



L-R Backed by Safer New Mexico Now's Jamie Michael and law enforcement officers, NMDOT Adjutant Secretary Rebecca Montoya tells the press that zero tolerance enforcement of seat belt laws, with a special emphasis on teens and young adults, is critical to keeping New Mexicans safe on our roads and highways.

our past efforts, and we will continue to stress the importance of buckling those seat belts every time you drive, to the citizens of our state."

Last year, 349 people were killed in car crashes in New Mexico. Of those killed, 207 people, or 63% were not wearing their seat belts.

MADD Marks 20th Anniversary of 21 Minimum Age Drinking Law

On July 17th, 1984, one of the boldest steps ever taken to stop drunk driving and to change the culture around underage drinking took place. President Ronald Reagan signed the national 21 minimum drinking age legislation into law to eliminate the "deadly borders" between states that had differing minimum age drinking laws.

Then Secretary of Transportation, Elizabeth Dole, was the chief advocate of the federal 21 law in the Reagan Administration.

"Twenty years. Twenty thousand young lives saved. Twenty thousand families kept whole," said Wendy Hamilton, MADD national president in a press release. "We don't know who they are. But we do know that the nationwide 21 drinking age law has proven to be perhaps the single most effective anti-drunk driving law enacted since MADD was founded in 1980."

For information on MADD's new campaigns to stop DWI and underage drinking see: www.madd.org or contact MADD New Mexico at 505-255-2955.

TSB Sponsors Judicial Training

At the urging of former Municipal Judges' Association President, Judge Alan Kirk, forty magistrate, municipal, metropolitan, and tribal court judges participated in an intensive two-day DWI primer sponsored by the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Bureau. The May 6 - 7 training in Albuquerque, conducted by the National Judicial



In the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau's Franklin Garcia, Michael Sandoval, Sandra Martinez and Michael Quintana offer their assistance to New Mexico judges at the NJC DWI Primer for New Judges.

College, was designed to familiarize newer judges with the laws, procedures and scientific principles underlying DWI prosecutions in their courts.

Michael Sandoval, TSB Acting Bureau Chief, said "This was the first time that the National Judicial College of Reno, NV, presented a seminar outside of Reno and exclusively for the judges of one state. This training will help our judges to conduct more effective DWI trials."

For information on upcoming judicial trainings, see the UNM Institute of Public Law Judicial Education Center website at: <http://jec.unm.edu/>.

New Mexico Traffic Fatalities

	May 2004* / May 2003	
Total May Fatalities	37	35
Year to Date (YTD)	178	159
YTD Alcohol Involved	60 (33.71%)	84 (52.83%)
No Restraints Used	60 (43.47%)	80 (61.53%)
YTD Teen Fatalities	23	29
YTD Teen Alcohol Involved	9 (40.9%)	15 (51.7%)
YTD Motorcycle Fatalities	11	11
YTD No Helmet Used	11	7
YTD Pedestrian Fatalities	23	16

*2004 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.

Calendar

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September 2 - 19

New Mexico State Fair

<http://www.nmstatefair.com/>

September 3-6

Stop on Red Week

Nationwide, for information, see:

www.stopredlightrunning.com/index.htm

October 2 - 10

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

<http://www.aibf.org/>

October 4 - 8

International Walk-To-School Week

www.walktoschool-usa.org/

November 8-21

Superblitz - Statewide

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December 8-10

"Policing in the 21st Century" 2004 New Mexico Law Enforcement Conference

Albuquerque, Contact: Diane Lang, New Mexico Municipal League, 1-800-432-2036

See <http://ipl.unm.edu/traf/> for the latest calendar information.

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.

Innovative Community Programs Get Kids' Attention

Educating children on the dangers of underage drinking is central to DWI prevention programs. But before you can share the anti-alcohol message, you have to find a way to get the youngsters to listen. Here are two innovative Community DWI programs that have found creative ways to inform and educate children on alcohol issues.

Santa Fe County DWI (dsims@co.santa-fe.nm.us) teamed with law enforcement, MADD, emergency medical services, St. Vincent's Hospital and CYFD for the 1st Annual Substance Abuse Awareness Day (S.A.D.D.) at St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe earlier this year.

Using the Jaws of Life on a crashed vehicle, hands on activities with drunk goggles, a rollover crash simulator, and speakers including brain development and drug expert Tim Burns, students were able to see, in graphic detail, how drugs and alcohol can impair judgement and coordination and cause senseless death and injury.

Frank Magourilos, DWI Prevention Specialist for Santa Fe County said, "Our youth are the most precious resource we have as they represent 100% of the future for New Mexico. It is of critical importance that we do everything we can to assure them of a bright and healthy future."



MADD New Mexico provided shoes for S.A.D.D. which represent the over 200 individuals who lost their lives in drunk driving crashes in New Mexico last year. Photo by Becky Beardsley.

Nola Kent, Sierra County DWI Coordinator (torcdwi@zianet.com), is using counter-advertising to educate children about underage drinking because children pay attention to ads. They can tell you which beer the lizard endorses and what brand their favorite athlete drinks.

Working with the schools and school bus contractors, Nola Kent has installed anti-alcohol advertising posters inside each of the buses used to transport children to and from school throughout Sierra County. The posters and messages are designed so that kids can relate to the images at their own level of understanding. Using positive messages as well as shock appeal, the posters counter similar alcohol advertising and they are also a daily reminder of the harm that alcohol abuse can cause.



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