

State of New Mexico
Department of Public Safety

PRESS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thanksgiving Weekend Nationwide Enforcement Initiative

Santa Fe, NM- This Wednesday, State Police, Motor Transportation Police, and New Mexico Department of Transportation join Federal and other state law enforcement agencies across the nation. Thanksgiving weekend 2013, will be the safest in New Mexico and across the nation! The "Interstate 40 Challenge: The Drive toward Zero Fatalities" will be kicked off.

Seven other state police or highway patrol agencies will be partaking in increased patrols along the I40 corridor over two 12 hour periods on November 27 and December 1-the busiest travel days during the Thanksgiving period. The outcome will be to produce the safest possible holiday travel on the interstate.

Law enforcement officials from the California Highway Patrol, Arizona Department of Public Safety, New Mexico State Police (and Motor Transportation Department), Texas Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Arkansas State Police, Tennessee Highway Patrol and North Carolina Highway Patrol will be taking full involvement in this project.

Approximately 370 miles of New Mexico's stretch of the I40 corridor will be covered. There will be 1 officer every 20 miles of the stretch. Travelers be aware: NMSP and MTP will be taking a zero tolerance approach to traffic enforcement.

"The Department of Public Safety is committed to keeping the motoring public safe during this holiday season. The Department of Public Safety is joining its law enforcement partners throughout the United States to allocate as many officers as necessary to ensure everyone reaches their destination safely." -DPS Cabinet Secretary Gorden Eden

The New Mexico Department of Transportation uses funds from its Traffic Safety Division to partner with Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the state to conduct such operations.

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“The holidays are unfortunately a time when we see more cases of drunk driving,” said New Mexico Department of Transportation Secretary Tom Church. “With efforts such as this and the ongoing Holiday Superblitz, we are working together to make our roads safer.”

New Mexico State Police Chief, Peter N. Kassetas stated "This Thanksgiving Holiday’s I40 project is designed to provide for a safe environment for traveling motorists on I40. State law enforcement agencies across the I40 corridor have a common prerogative for this project: all motorists get to their destination safely. I'm confident this mission and goal will be accomplished with the show of force from the state police and highway patrol agencies across I40." “Our aggressive approach this holiday weekend will ultimately change the unsafe driving habits and behaviors of motorists as they see New Mexico’s stretch of I40 (from Tucumcari to Gallup) saturated with NMSP black and whites and MTP black and gray police vehicles.”

Each agency has been tasked to assign a state trooper every 20 miles of Interstate 40 from noon to midnight on Wednesday, November 27 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, December 1.

New Mexico State Police will also increase its saturation patrols and field sobriety checkpoints across the state “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” will coincide with this initiative, as well as “Holiday Superblitz.”

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