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Press Release

## **Drivers Urged To Use Extra Caution During Inclement Weather**

**Santa Fe** – The New Mexico Department of Transportation is urging motorists to be extra cautious on roadways during severe weather. Currently, parts of the state are experiencing rain, hail and/flooding.

### **Safety tips for driving in inclement weather:**

- If possible, stay off the road during heavy thunderstorms. Large flashes of lightning can temporarily blind and disorient drivers, and the accompanying high winds and heavy rain can create deadly driving conditions.
- Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through it; your vehicle could be swept off the road.
- Watch out for places where floodwater collects, particularly low-lying roads adjacent to streams, and dips under rail or highway bridges.
- Avoid driving through deep water, because it can cause serious damage to a modern vehicle's electrical system.
- Maintain proper following distance (3 second rule). This needs to be increased in wet weather.
- Don't follow large trucks or buses too closely, because the spray created by their large tires can reduce vision.
- Stay toward the middle lanes — water tends to pool in outside lanes.
- When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation's road advisory website, [www.nmroads.com](http://www.nmroads.com), is being updated around the clock with conditions about our state and interstate roadways. Information on the website can also be obtained by calling 511.

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