**October 21, 2015**

## 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, many areas of the state are experiencing rain, hail and/or 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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