

100 Days and Nights of Summer
Governor Bill Richardson Remarks
May 31, 2007

Today, I'm proud to stand with law enforcement, the CEO of MADD, and our secretaries of transportation and public safety to announce the 100 Days and Nights of Summer. This program is an all-encompassing traffic safety effort spearheaded by the New Mexico Department of Transportation in partnership with the Department of Public Safety and the Regulation and Licensing Department.

The campaign begins tomorrow and lasts through September 8th. It will go day and night, and it will focus on dangerous moving violations:

- **First** and foremost—stopping drunk drivers
- **Second**---penalizing speeding and aggressive drivers
- **And Third**---ticketing drivers and passengers not wearing their seat belts

The campaign will also include compliance checks to ensure that liquor licensees are not serving people who are intoxicated.

The summer months are historically the deadliest on New Mexico's roadways. Last year, traffic crashes claimed 173 lives in New Mexico during the months of June, July, August and September. Sixty-nine of those fatalities were alcohol-related.

We must do better. The 100 Days and Nights program is an effort to turn this around, and make our roads this summer, the safest in state history.

While New Mexico is making progress in reducing drunk driving, there is still much work to be done. In 2006, 100 and ninety-one people died in impaired driving crashes in New Mexico, down slightly from 100 and ninety-four in 2005.

Most importantly, the numbers for alcohol fatalities per 100,000 population dropped from 10 in 2005--- to nine-point-eight-five in 2006, the lowest rate ever recorded in New Mexico.

So far in 2007, after the first quarter, alcohol-involved fatalities are down from last year. With the 100 Days and Nights campaign, we hope to reduce the number of New Mexicans that die in traffic crashes.

Historically, New Mexico has been one of the top ten worst in the country for alcohol-involved fatalities, this year we are on track to move out of that unfortunate group—if every New Mexican does their part--Buckle up before you drive, and drive safe when you do. Never drink and drive, and call #DWI if you see a drunk driver on the road.

New Mexico law enforcement will be doing its part to reduce death and injury due to DWI:

- New Mexico State Police plans to conduct more than 100 DWI checkpoints, saturation patrols and seatbelt operations during the "100 Days/Nights" campaign.
- Across the state law enforcement agencies will increase DWI activities to deter drunk driving and arrest those who choose to drive after drinking too much.

Our increased law enforcement presence will be accompanied by a major public awareness campaign that includes TV and radio public service announcements, billboards and printed material.

Our "Training New Mexico Campaign" is designed to remind New Mexicans to slow down, buckle up and drive sober. Our enhanced law enforcement will be on road enforcing the law for those drivers who don't get the message.

Over the last four years, I have worked with the legislature to pass tougher DWI laws and increase funding for law enforcement to combat DWI.

My administration has increased the number of DWI Super Blitzes, and has overseen the hiring of four specialized DWI officers in the six counties hit hardest by DWI.

We have a long way to go, but we are making progress in the battle against DWI in New Mexico.

Again, I ask every New Mexican to do their part to make this summer, a safe summer.

- call pound-DWI (#394) to report drunk drivers
- Drive safe on our roads
- Don't forget to buckle up child passengers
- And always wear your seat belt

Thank you.