



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 14, 2023

Holiday Traffic Safety Event

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention

LAS CRUCES - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and SAFER New Mexico Now are sponsoring a free child car seat inspection from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on December 19, 2023, at the New Mexico Department of Transportation located at [750 North Solano Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001](#).

Tragically, December can be a dangerous time for people on the roads. More parties and festivities celebrating the season brings out more drunk drivers. In 2021, there were 13,384 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities. In 2021, there were 710 children (under 13) killed in passenger vehicles, and more than 100,000 were injured. More than a third (36%) of children (under 13) who died while riding in passenger vehicles were unrestrained. In addition, 3 out of 4 car seats are used incorrectly. This event offers parents and caregivers personal instruction from nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on the proper selection, installation, and use of your car seat.

“During the holiday season, it's crucial to highlight traffic safety in our state. We urge everyone to drive responsibly, designate a driver, and buckle up throughout this festive season,” said Jeff Barela, Traffic Safety Director, NMDOT.

“In order to keep your family safe, we invite you to join us for this holiday traffic safety event to have your car seat inspected, get helpful driving tips, understand the impact of driving under the influence and renew your commitment to driving safely so everyone makes it home for the holidays,” said Maggi Gunnels, Regional Administrator, NHTSA Region 6.

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NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

Ami R Evans, District-1 PIO | Ami.Evans@state.nm.us | 575 640 5981



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December 14, 2023

Holiday Traffic Safety Event: In-Person Car Seat Inspection to be Held In Las Cruces

LAS CRUCES – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD) and Safer New Mexico Now will host an in-person **Car Seat Inspection Clinic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at the Las Cruces NMDOT Office, 750 North Solano Drive, in Las Cruces.** This free educational event provides parents and caregivers instruction on the proper selection, installation and use of their car seats from nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs).

Tragically, December can be a dangerous time for people on the roads, especially children. In 2021, more than 100,000 children were injured in passenger vehicle crashes. Additionally, 710 children under the age of 13 were killed in passenger vehicles. Of those fatalities, 36% of children were unrestrained.

“We invite you to join us for this holiday traffic safety event to have your car seat inspected, get helpful driving tips, understand the impact of driving under the influence and renew your commitment to driving safely so everyone makes it home for the holidays,” said Maggi Gunnels, Traffic Safety Administrator of NHTSA Region 6.

At the event, CPSTs will spend approximately 30 minutes per seat educating parents on the proper selection, installation, and use of their car and booster seats. Parents and caregivers will also learn important information regarding common errors in car seat safety and be able to ask questions.

“During the holiday season, it's crucial to highlight traffic safety in our state,” said Jeff Barela, NMDOT Traffic Safety Division Director. “We urge everyone to drive responsibly, designate a driver, and buckle up throughout this festive season.”

To participate in the Car Seat Inspection Clinic, parents and caregivers should bring their car seat, car seat manual, vehicle manual, and the child should be present if possible. Car seat inspections are first come first served and appointments are not necessary.

Safer is proud to partner with NHTSA and the NMDOT TSD in this year's winter impaired driving campaign. Car Seat Inspection Clinics are a free public service funded by the NMDOT TSD and are available to everyone. The child must be present to be considered for a seat replacement. A \$35 seat replacement fee may apply. For more information, please call (800) 231-6145 or (505) 856-6143.

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A photograph of a man with short blonde hair, wearing a blue t-shirt with a yellow graphic, sitting in the driver's seat of a car. A young child with dark curly hair is sitting in a car seat next to him, looking towards the camera. The car's interior, including the headrest and a light fixture, is visible.

**3 OUT OF 4
CAR SEATS
ARE USED
INCORRECTLY.**

COULD YOURS BE ONE OF THEM?

Have your car seat or booster seat inspected for recalls, broken parts, improper installation, and appropriateness for your child. Learn the child restraint law in New Mexico. The child and car seat must be present to be considered for a seat replacement. There is no charge for this service, however a CAR SEAT REPLACEMENT FEE OF \$35 MAY APPLY.

**FREE
SERVICE**
funded
by the
NMDOT

NMDOT / LAS CRUCES
750 North Solano Drive
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(800) 231-6145 SAFERNM.ORG



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

bklup



SAFER
New Mexico Now

A photograph of a man with short blonde hair, wearing a blue t-shirt with a yellow graphic, sitting in the driver's seat of a car. A young child with dark curly hair is sitting in a black car seat next to him, looking towards the camera. The car's interior, including the headrest and a warning label on the seat, is visible.

**3 DE CADA 4
ASIENTOS DE
SEGURIDAD SE USAN
INCORRECTAMENTE.**

¿ES EL SUYO UNO DE ELLOS?

Nos gustaría revisar el asiento de seguridad o el asiento elevado de su niño, en caso de que haya sido retirado del mercado, tenga partes quebradas, no está instalado apropiadamente o no es apropiado para el niño. Aprenda acerca de la Ley de seguridad en Nuevo México. El niño(a) y el asiento de seguridad deben estar presentes para considerar un remplazo de asiento. No se cobra por este servicio, sin embargo, si se necesita remplazar EL ASIENTO DE SEGURIDAD SE COBRARÁ \$35 DÓLARES.

**SERVICIO
GRATIS**
financiado
por
NMDOT

NMDOT / LAS CRUCES
750 North Solano Drive
martes 19 de diciembre del 2023
De 11:00 a.m. a las 1:00 p.m.

(800) 231-6145 SAFERNM.ORG



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