



# State of New Mexico

## *Department of Public Safety*

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### Drug Smugglers Find No Comfort

Gallup—The owner-operator of Oklahoma based Hard Times Trucking is looking at some federal hard time. Rickie Reichard of Spiro, OK, was arrested on drug smuggling charges Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> by MTD officers. The truck was stopped mid-morning just east of Gallup on I-40.

A Motor Transportation Division police officer pulled over Reichard for traffic violations and discovered more than \$3.5 million worth of pot hidden under a load of bedding. The truck driver was smuggling 1478 pounds of pot from California to Arkansas buried in a load of comforters.

The 48 year old truck driver was stopped after the MTD officer saw the truck he was driving swerve from lane to lane. During a brief roadside interview the officer discovered problems with the driver log. A load verification revealed the piles of pot under the covers.

The driver and the case have been turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation and charges.

Another Hard Times driver was arrested and the trailer seized several months ago for similar smuggling charges.

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The attached photos are courtesy of the Department of Public Safety.

