



State of New Mexico

New Mexico State Police

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Contact:

Lieutenant Rick Anglada

Public Information Officer

Pgr. (505) 939-6830

For Immediate Release

Declare Independence from Impaired Driving this 4th of July

Santa Fe: (July 2, 2008) - In anticipation of the heavily travelled 4th of July weekend, the State Police and Motor Transportation Police will be joining with 8 other states in "Troopers Across America", an enforcement operation which will place a state police officer/trooper every 15 miles, from coast to coast along Interstate 40. Troopers Across America will run from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday, July 5th. Officers will be concentrating enforcement on speeding, aggressive driving, seat belt and child restraint use, and DWI. *"Officers will have a ZERO TOLERANCE for these violations."* said Chief Faron Segotta, *"State Police will also set up sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the state, to deter drunk driving and to apprehend those individuals that don't get the message."*

In addition, officers will participate in Operation C.A.R.E., a national program aimed at reducing crashes on highways during holiday weekend driving periods. As part of Operation C.A.R.E., an acronym for Combined Accident Reduction Effort, officers will be aggressively patrolling the highways throughout the state this weekend and in doing so, continuing the 100 Days and Nights of Summer enforcement campaign. The Operation C.A.R.E. campaign runs from July 3rd to July 6th.

During the 4th of July weekend last year, state police investigated 72 motor vehicle crashes of which 4 were fatal crashes that killed 4 people. 7 crashes involved alcohol. During the 4th of July weekend last year, state police arrested 66 drunk drivers, issued 1857 speeding citations, 319 seat belt citations, and 62 child restraint citations. Officers are working diligently to make this the safest summer ever. Don't become one of the above statistics.

Motorists can reduce their risk this weekend by:

- Slowing down
- Buckling up
- Buckling children
- Designating a sober driver
- Never letting friends drive drunk
- Report drunk drivers by calling #DWI.

Remember, You Drink, You Drive, You lose!

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