



# State of New Mexico

## *Department of Public Safety*

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Contact: Peter Olson  
(505) 827-3361

### **Tragic Memorial Weekend**

Santa Fe—In spite of an intensive safety effort by State Police and Motor Transportation Police help reduce crashes and fatalities 8 people have died in motor vehicle crashes.

Early Saturday morning, just before 2:00 am, Talon Dunkle (7/1/90) hit a cattle guard and power pole on Valley Irrigation Road in Torrance County. He died later Saturday morning. Two of the three passengers riding in his car ran away. Alcohol played a role in this crash. He was wearing a seatbelt.

Three people died in a crash on US 550 just before 11:00 am Saturday. Edwin (9/29/36) and Gloria (11/21/40) Brooks of Albuquerque died when their SUV crossed into oncoming traffic. They were heading north when they collided with the southbound car driven by Larissa Perry (8/11/91) of Farmington. She was transported to UNMH where she died.

A tire blow out on the van driven by Eduardo Mantila-Fernandez (4/12/44) of Ciudad Juarez caused the Chevy to roll into on-coming traffic on I-25 in Sierra County. There were 5 people in the van with Eduardo; two were thrown from the van as it rolled. A Nissan car hit the van but nobody was injured in that car. The crash occurred just after 1:00pm on Saturday.

Joshua Cordova (5/19/81) and Kathryn Trujillo were riding an ATV on Forest Road 70 near Cuba when he rolled it down a steep embankment hitting a tree. He died at UNMH about 7 hours after the 5:00pm crash. Kathryn was also flown by helicopter to UNMH with injuries. It appears Cordova was drinking alcohol before this crash.

Alcohol also was a factor in a crash where Guillermo Montes (12/5/68) of Bovina Texas rolled his Jeep into a field next to State Road 77 in Curry County. Seven year old Elizabeth Kazza then drove the damaged Cherokee about 3 miles to get help when she realized her father was dead. She told officers that her dad was driving from Bovina to Clovis to get more beer when they went off the road and Montes was ejected. Elizabeth and her 4 year old brother were taken to Plains

Regional Medical Center in Clovis and treated for minor injuries. The crash occurred just before 10:00 pm. Montes died at the scene.

Kee Manygoats, (5/16/67) of Todalena, AZ died on NM118 Monday in a rollover. Alcohol and speed are factors in this crash that occurred at about 5:30 pm in McKinley County.

Officers from State Police and Motor Transportation Police Division worked a special operation on Interstate 40 from Arizona to Texas. From Friday morning to Saturday midnight, officers looked for speeders and people traveling without wear seatbelts and other aggressive or dangerous driving. Officers issued 251 speeding tickets, wrote 77 tickets to people not wearing seatbelts, handed out 138 other citations for no insurance, registration or for driving on suspended or revoked licenses, made 3 DWI arrests and 5 other criminal arrests.

On I-10 from Arizona to Texas officers also watched for dangerous driving behavior. Ninety people were stopped for speeding, 55 adults and 3 children were caught not wearing seatbelts, and 14 were arrested for driving while intoxicated.

These operations targeted high traffic times and locations and primarily were in Safety Corridors.

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