



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David D. Quintana P.E., *Acting Cabinet Secretary*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 14, 2026

Cy Palmer Memorial Car Seat Clinic scheduled for Oct. 24

NMDOT, Safer New Mexico Now to host car seat safety check in Artesia

ARTESIA, N.M. — The New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division (NMDOT TSD), Safer New Mexico Now (Safer) and the Frank W. Yates Jr. Family Foundation will host the Cy Palmer Memorial Car Seat Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at Bulldog Stadium, 1600 W. Grand Ave. in Artesia.

The annual clinic celebrates the life of Cy Palmer, a 7-year-old who died in a motor vehicle crash on Nov. 15, 2017. Although Palmer was wearing a seat belt, he was not using a booster seat, which helps position a seat belt correctly to ensure a child is properly restrained in the event of a crash.

Motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of death for children in the United States. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, properly used car seats can reduce the risk of death by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers in passenger cars. Booster seats also help reduce the risk of serious injury for children ages 4 to 8 compared with seat belt use alone.

“Child passenger safety starts with making sure every child is in the right seat and that seat is installed and used correctly,” **said NMDOT Cabinet Secretary David D. Quintana**. “These clinics offer free inspections, giving parents and caregivers an opportunity to work one-on-one with a certified technician, ask questions and leave knowing their child is riding as safely as possible.”

During the clinic, nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will spend approximately 30 minutes per seat working with parents and caregivers on the proper selection, installation and use of car seats and booster seats. Technicians will also identify common car seat safety errors and answer questions.

If a technician determines that a car seat is recalled, expired or otherwise unsafe, a replacement seat may be available for a \$35 fee.

Parents and caregivers should bring their car seat, car seat manual and vehicle owner’s manual. Children should also be present, if possible, so technicians can help ensure the seat fits properly.

Inspections are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointments are necessary. There is no charge for inspections; however, a \$35 fee may apply if a replacement seat is needed.

For more information about the event, call 505-856-6143 or visit safernm.org.

For more information about the New Mexico Department of Transportation, visit dot.nm.gov.

NMDOT encourages every driver and passenger to make buckling up an automatic part of every trip: every person, every seat, every time.

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The New Mexico Department of Transportation works to provide a safe and efficient transportation system for the traveling public while supporting communities and economic development throughout New Mexico. Through its Traffic Safety Division and statewide partners, NMDOT supports education, enforcement and prevention programs designed to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities on New Mexico roadways.



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Mobility for everyone