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Governor

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Press Release

NMDOT Urges Motorists to Observe National Work Zone Awareness Week throughout the 2012 Construction Season

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) urges motorists to use extra caution during National Work Zone Awareness Week, observed this year April 23-27, and throughout the remainder of the year as motorists encounter work zones on New Mexico roads.

This year's theme, "*Don't Barrel through Work Zones! Drive Smart to Arrive Alive,*" is a reminder to motorists to reduce their speed and follow all signage when driving through construction work zones. While motorists become accustomed to driving through work zones and orange barrels year after year, each work zone is uniquely structured and therefore needs our undivided attention.

"Work zones and orange barrels are a sight that motorists are familiar with, but we must all remember to be particularly careful each time we pass through them," said Transportation Secretary Alvin Dominguez. "We must remain cautious because your life and life of highway maintainers depends on it."

The American Traffic Safety Services Association, the Federal Highway Administration, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials sponsored the first National Work Zone Awareness Week in 1999.

Fines for motorists who are caught speeding in construction zones are doubled. A motorist who does not obey the posted construction signage could face up to 90 days in jail and up to \$300 in fines.

The NMDOT is responsible for more than 30,000 miles of state highways 3,200 bridge structures, with more than hundred construction and maintenance activities underway at any given time.

Remember, "Don't barrel through work zones! Drive smart to arrive alive!"

For additional information contact Manon Arnett, Chief Public Information Officer for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, at (505) 827-5526.

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