

# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

For immediate release  
3/7/03

Contact: Gilbert Gallegos  
505.476.2299

### **GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON WANTS INSPECTIONS OF NIGHTCLUBS COMPLETED IN 90 DAYS**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson asked state fire officials to step up inspections of nightclubs, and complete the inspections within 90 days.

“The consensus is this: We can step up inspections, and get to every nightclub in the state during the next 90 days,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “We will do a combination of routine inspections during the week and surprise inspections during weekends - when most nightclubs are active.

“We’re not going to wait for a disaster to happen in New Mexico,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “We’re being proactive to protect New Mexico citizens.”

Interim State Fire Marshal John Standefer informed the governor that he fire officials will use a flexible definition of nightclubs, or “public occupancies,” to include places with an occupant load greater than 50 occupants, including:

- Armories
- Assembly halls
- Auditoriums
- Bowling lanes
- Clubrooms
- Dance halls
- Drinking establishments
- Exhibition halls
- Gymnasiums
- Poolrooms
- Restaurants
- Special & Temporary buildings used for gathering for entertainment, eating, drinking & amusement

The State Fire Marshal's Office and other agencies have developed the following guidelines and check lists as a result of the executive order signed last week by Governor Bill Richardson. Inspectors will check for the following:

1. Basic requirements
2. Inspection checklists for public occupancies
3. Inspection checklist for pyrotechnics before a proximate audience
4. Emergency evacuation policies & procedures
5. Nightclub safety tips