



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Labor Day Weekend Crackdown On DWI

Governor warns drunk drivers Super Blitz “will get you”

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SANTA FE — Governor Bill Richardson today announced the kick off of the fifth DWI Super Blitz this year that will continue through the upcoming Labor Day Weekend. More than 60 law enforcement agencies, including State Police, city, county and tribal agencies, will be setting up sobriety check points checkpoints statewide starting today through August 31.

“The Labor Day weekend is a time for end-of-summer celebrations and trips, and a lot of people will be out on our highways,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Unfortunately, it’s also a time when more people make the wrong decision to drink and drive. That’s why it’s important to get the word out that in New Mexico, if you make the choice to drink and drive, we’ll get you, and we’ll throw the book at you.”

Law enforcement agencies will be setting up DWI checkpoints on highways and in communities statewide; stepping up enforcement of underage drinking laws, and keeping a close watch for seatbelt use and speeding violations during the Superblitz. This is the fifth of the eight Superblitzes scheduled for this year is being coordinated with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

“When I ran for Governor I promised to crack down on drunk drivers by increasing penalties and demanding mandatory counseling. To Move New Mexico Forward- and build strong and safe communities, I pledged to fight the scourge of drunk drivers who kill and maim, and leave families and communities shattered,” Governor Richardson said.

“We’ve strengthened the penalties for DWI offenders in every legislative session since I took office. We increased funding for law enforcement and treatment programs. We have instituted education programs to teach our children about the dangers of alcohol abuse. We doubled the number of Super Blitzes we do each year,” Governor Richardson said.

Governor Richardson also highlighted some of the progress made in the fight against drunken driving.

- Overall, the number of alcohol-related crashes have decreased each year for the past three years,
- We have reduced the number of fatal alcohol-related crashes. Preliminary figures show that as of July this year 100 people were killed in drunken driving crashes compared to 133 for the same period of time last year, and
- We have seen a significant increase in DWI arrests over the past three years, meaning potential crashes and fatalities were averted.