

## **Thanksgiving C.A.R.E operation results in more than 300 citations**

During the Thanksgiving holiday, the New Mexico State Police participated in the Combined Accident Reduction Effort operation across all roadways within the state.

The goal of the traffic initiative is that a strong law enforcement presence will have a direct effect on the driving behaviors of motorists during the holiday weekend, and reduce the number of crashes and increase motorist safety as a result.

The NMSP provided an increased patrol presence during this initiative on roadways throughout all State Police districts. Because of the increased volume of traffic during the holiday, police conducted high-intensity traffic operations statewide on the busiest travel days of the Thanksgiving weekend, specifically Nov. 21-26.

Operations over the holiday resulted in State Police officers issuing about 5,233 traffic citations — 159 citations were for lack of seat belt usage — and arresting 59 drunk drivers statewide.

Officers handled a total of 49 crashes, one fatal crash, and made eight arrests due to drug related crimes.

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau issued approximately 341 commercial vehicle citations and conducted over 571 commercial vehicle inspections.

NMSP and officers will continue holiday travel operations throughout the upcoming winter season and encourage the public to drive safely and obey all laws while traveling the motorways of New Mexico.