

## Man shoots, kills NMSP officer during traffic stop

Written by gallupsun  
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A New Mexico State Police Officer was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Interstate 40.

During the early hours of March 15, NMSP Officer Justin Hare, 35, pulled a man over on I-40 near mile marker 320, which is near Tucumcari, New Mexico.

At some point during the interaction, the suspect, who was last seen wearing a a brown hoodie and jacket, shot Hare. He died at the scene.

As of 2:15 pm on March 15 NMSP is still trying to locate the suspect. In a Facebook post they warned the public that the man is armed and dangerous. He was last seen on I-40 near the 304 milepost, which is between Montoya and Newkirk.

Both Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Cabinet Secretary Jason R. Bowie issued statements about the officer's death.

"I'm heartbroken by the devastating news that State Police Officer Justin Hare was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call near Tucumcari this morning. It's a tragic reminder of the dangers our law enforcement officers face each time they put on a uniform and report for duty," Lujan Grisham said. "Officer Hare was doing his job protecting his community, and his sacrifice will never be forgotten. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and fellow officers at this most difficult time."

Bowie echoed the sentiment.

"Today, our hearts are broken by the tragic and painful news that we lost one of our state's finest public servants, Officer Justin Hare, who was killed this morning in the line of duty. It's a sacrifice no one should have to make. This is shocking news to everyone who knew and worked with Officer Hare. My heart is with his family, colleagues, and friends," Bowie said.

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He continued by talking about the sacrifices law enforcement officers make every day.

We all owe a great debt to the men and women of law enforcement, who daily put their lives on the line to protect the lives, property and rights of New Mexicans, visitors and those passing through our great State. Officer Hare will never be forgotten, and his sacrifice safeguarding our state is worthy of the highest honors," Bowie said.

