



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF  
**TRANSPORTATION**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Ricky Serna**, Cabinet Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Northern New Mexico Winter Weather Brings Potholes**  
*Slow down for road crews patching potholes*

LAS VEGAS –The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) would like to make travelers aware of potholes on the roadway. Potholes are caused by the expansion and contraction of moisture under asphalt roadway surfaces. Winter weather brings snow and ice which is the main source of this moisture potholes become more prevalent, especially in northern New Mexico. As roadway temperatures begin to fluctuate between warm and cold, we see the winter roadway freeze-thaw cycle in full effect, causing potholes. This continuous “freeze-thaw” cycle weakens the pavement and allows it to continue cracking, and with weight of passing vehicles weakens the pavement causing it to break and create a pothole.

As the NMDOT addresses potholes year-round on New Mexico roadways. During cold winter months, NMDOT road crews perform quick pothole repairs. This consists of placing bagged cold mix material into the pothole, compacting, and moving on to the next pothole. This is the most common method utilized during winter.

Travelers can help by slowing down on highways affected by storm-related potholes, which allows road crews to safely repair the affected roadway. Reducing speed and staying alert on the roadway is always a must, especially after winter storms. Permanent repairs will continue as the weather permits.

In Northeastern New Mexico, the NMDOT spends over 2 million dollars in pothole maintenance each year addressing potholes year-round. This includes the cost of materials, labor, and equipment usage. Pothole patching is essential in maintaining our roadways as it is key to keeping a safe and reliable roadway system for the traveling public.

NMDOT is committed to the safety of the traveling public and appreciates your cooperation with all roadway repairs.

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**NMDOT**  
*Mobility for everyone*

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