

OFFICER SAFETY HANDOUT SHERIFF

INJURIES



From 2003 to 2005 New Mexico deputies experienced 563 injuries, equating to over \$3.9 million in losses. The most common causes of these injuries were as follows:

- 117 injuries (20.8% of all injuries) occurred as the result of assault or resisting offenders. This assault rate is increasing at an alarming rate.



- 95 injuries (16.9% of all injuries) occurred in motor vehicle accidents. Many of these injuries occurred while running code and/or during pursuits, or when pedestrian deputies are hit by vehicles (vehicle/deputy scene placement).

- 90 injuries (16% of all injuries) occurred during training. Generally, these injuries occurred during defensive tactics and physical training “running”.



- 51 injuries (9% of all injuries) resulted from bloodborne pathogen exposures. These injuries resulted from needle sticks during searches or when contacting individuals with Hep B & C, or TB.

- 36 injuries (6% of all injuries) resulted from slips, trips & falls. Ice & snow were a common environmental condition.



- 31 injuries (5% of all injuries) occurred during foot pursuit of offenders.

- 27 injuries (4.8% of all injuries) occurred while attempting to or during a lifting maneuver.



- 26 injuries (4.6% of all injuries) resulted by not using personal protective equipment (PPE). Serious injuries occurred at Meth labs and while handling evidence and “sharps” not secured properly.

DEATHS

Since 1847, 179 officers have been killed or died in the line of duty in New Mexico. 59 (33%) of the deaths were accidental, while 120 (67%) were intentional "Murdered."

- 15 (8.4%)- Federal
- 40 (22%)- State of NM
- 67 (37.4%)- County
- 45 (25.1%)- Municipal
- 7 (3.9%)- Tribal
- 3 (1.6%)- Railroad
- 2 (1.1%)- Other State Sheriff's



The most common causes of officer deaths include:

- 37 deaths (20.6%) resulted from motor vehicle accidents; 12 while running code.
- 32 deaths (17.8%) occurred during felony calls or investigations.
- 16 deaths (8.9%) resulted from ambush.
- 13 deaths (7.2%) occurred during prisoner transports "escape".
- 13 deaths (7.2%) resulted during barricaded subject(s) incidents.
- 12 deaths (6.7%) resulted from aircraft accidents.
- 11 deaths (6.1%) occurred during traffic stops.
- 10 deaths (5.5%) occurred during misdemeanor calls or investigations.