

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

# County of Luna

**Barbara Reedy**  
Commissioner, District 1

**Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chair**  
Commissioner, District 2



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Commissioner, District 3

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## Media Release

Luna County employees were again recognized for safety by the New Mexico Association of Counties for efforts to reduce workers' compensation claims and set a positive claim trend.

At the conference, held January 16-18 in Santa Fe, Luna County was awarded a \$7,000 contribution refund due to the efforts of staff and the county's Risk Management office. The county has been awarded or recognized annually for its efforts to create a safer work environment since 2010. NMAC is the county's insurance holder.

"This award is proof that county employees take work safety seriously," Mark Jasso, director of Risk Management, said. "Not only do our employees care about their own safety and the safety of coworkers, but they also respect the trust put into them by the public to do their jobs correctly."

County employees participate in a mandatory Risk Awareness Program training held every week. These short classes — typically five to 10 minutes — are led by county employees to inform their peers of laws, regulations and best practices to stay safe on the job and protect taxpayer-funded equipment, machinery and supplies.

Topics covered in the classes include driving safety, blood borne pathogens, physical and mental health, safe use of fire extinguishers, and others. If employees miss a class, they are required to listen to a recording of it to ensure they do not miss the information.

In 2017, the county also moved to an online-based training system to provide required annual trainings, such as covering issues around sexual harassment and the Family Medical Leave Act. This new approach provides for more efficient use of time so employees can take the classes as their schedule allows rather than meeting as a large group. Tests and certifications also ensure employees understand the information provided in the training system. All county employees are required to take the annual trainings, with extra requirements for members of law enforcement.

The New Mexico Association of Counties is a non-profit, nonpartisan association representing and serving New Mexico's 33 counties. NMAC provides numerous programs and services to counties including legislative representation, self-insurance, legal assistance and

professional development. For more information and updates on our events, programs and other initiatives, visit [www.nmcounties.org](http://www.nmcounties.org).

**CAPTION**

NMAC director Steve Kopelman, at left, is shown with NMAC president and Otero County commissioner Susan Flores as they present a check to Luna County manager Ira Pearson in recognition of the county's efforts to promote a safe working environment.

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