

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

# County of Luna

**Joe “Oleo” Milo, Jr.**  
Chairman, District 1

**Linda Smrkovsky**  
Commissioner, District 2



**R. Javier Diaz**  
Commissioner, District 3

**Charles “Tink” Jackson**  
County Manager

700 South Silver Avenue • Post Office Box 551 • Deming, New Mexico 88031  
Telephone (575) 546-0494 Facsimile (575) 544-4293

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**Contact: Matt Robinson, (575) 545-4627**

## Media Release

Luna County’s Risk Awareness Program has been recognized statewide for its success in reducing county claims in 2014.

During the 2015 Legislative Conference in Santa Fe, the New Mexico Association of Counties presented Luna County with its RAP award in recognition of reducing workers’ compensation claims by 39 percent. Luna County’s Emergency Services Department is charged with implementing the program. All county employees are required to attend the courses.

“This award is exciting for two big reasons, safety and saving taxpayer dollars,” Mark Jasso, director of county Emergency Management, said. “I’m proud of my colleagues for their dedication to the program and reducing costs that would ordinarily be passed on to taxpayers.”

Taylor Horst, NMAC Risk Management Director, echoed Jasso’s comment, saying Luna County officials should be commended for their hard work to reduce costs to the community.

The 50-week program is designed to reduce the frequency and severity of claims through risk awareness and safety practices. Subjects include simple preventative measures like keeping workspaces clean, and more complicated measures, such as avoiding blood borne pathogens exposures. County employees meet once a week for 30 minutes or less to participate in the classes. County employees who miss sessions are required to make up the session at a later date, so no employees miss important information.

Jasso is also a certified defensive driving instructor, which he certifies county employees — and, on occasion, have certified individuals from other agencies — in defensive driving to reduce accidents and increase safety. The course is mandatory for all new county employees, while existing employees are required to take the course as a refresher every three years.

The Emergency Services Department, with two staff members, is also responsible for coordinating responses to emergencies, such as extreme weather, throughout the county, and it also handles internal emergency situations for all departments for Luna County Government.

“Emergency Management personnel are often the unsung heroes working behind the scenes in disasters or other critical situations,” Charles “Tink” Jackson, Luna County Manager, said. “We are fortunate to have outstanding professionals serving Luna County in this department.”

For more information about the RAP program, or other responsibilities of the Emergency Management Department, contact (575) 546-0494.

## PHOTO CAPTION

Mark Jasso, Luna County’s director of Emergency Management, is shown leading a Risk Awareness Program training at the Luna County Courthouse.

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