

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Features Interactive Exhibits At the 2012 New Mexico State Fair

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department will showcase a number of interactive and education exhibits at the 2012 New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque. The State Fair runs from September 12-23 at the Expo New Mexico State Fairgrounds complex in Albuquerque.

“The department has a strong presence at the State Fair with many unique exhibits for fairgoers,” says John Bemis, Cabinet Secretary. “The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s diverse divisions: Energy Conservation and Management, State Forestry, Mining and Minerals, Oil Conservation and State Parks impact the lives of all New Mexicans. We hope citizens come away with a greater appreciation of the resources we promote and protect.”

These are the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department exhibits that will be open to the public during the 2012 New Mexico State Fair:

New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division:

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division’s (MMD) Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program features an exhibit designed to allow the public to get a feel for the dangers of being inside an abandoned mine. The exhibit provides important abandoned mine information and allows the public to participate in a touch screen quiz. It is also equipped with a sensory system to trigger the sound of falling rocks when a fairgoer steps too close to a shaft photo on the floor.

There is nothing of value left in abandoned mines - that is why they were abandoned. It is vital to know about abandoned mine dangers of not only the environmental and health variety, but also the very real possibility of personal injury and death. This exhibit is designed to alert the public, particularly the young and young adults, to the dangers of abandoned mines. Statistics show that more accidents and fatalities in abandoned mines involve high school-aged and college-aged students.

The Abandoned Mine Land Program is a federally funded state program whose mission is to safeguard and reclaim pre-1977 mining-related disturbances. There are approximately 15,000 abandoned mines in New Mexico. Since its inception AML has closed or safeguarded more than 3,100 hazardous mine features in the state.

New Mexico State Parks Division:

The New Mexico State Parks Division’s Boating Safety, Education, and Enforcement Program will again have interactive exhibits this year. The exhibit area will provide a lifejacket display with demonstrations on inflatable lifejackets and provide free lifejacket fittings for children. The emphasis of these exhibits will be focused on increasing child safety on and near the water through the use of a lifejackets. Kids will be able

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to participate in t-shirt color activities and can enter a drawing to win lifejackets. Finally, during Law Enforcement Day, Marine Officers from Elephant Butte Lake State Park will set up patrol vessels and other equipment for fairgoers to see up close.

The State Parks Division will be using the group, *Fun and Games* to disperse information on parks. The activity will run in collaboration with the Tourism Department on Main Street at the fairgrounds to reach the maximum amount of State Fair visitors. The State Parks Division is also represented at many large fairs, fiestas and festivals around the state by partnering with the Tourism Department and *Fun and Games*, and by stocking park brochures at visitor centers and other appropriate venues.

Energy Conservation and Management Division:

The New Mexico Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECMD) provide money saving tips at the State Fair. Whether under the hood or around the house, a few steps can add up to big savings. The ECMD exhibit offers displays and interactive activities on how to reduce energy bills by making homes and cars more energy efficient. Exhibit photos of renewable energy projects in public buildings that save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in reduced utility bills will be on display.

ECMD staff provides energy efficiency and conservation information for attendees of all ages. Energy activity booklets are available for kids, and adults can get tax credit information for making energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. Fairgoers can learn from a miniature model home that displays the differences in heat loss from various types of window panes and walls. Another exhibit features an electric meter illustrating the vast difference between a typical incandescent bulb's electricity use and that of an LED bulb.

September 21st is Alternative Fuels Days, featuring the latest propane, gasoline-electric hybrid, compressed natural gas and biodiesel vehicle technologies.

New Mexico State Forestry Division:

The New Mexico State Forestry Division will promote wildland fire prevention and preparedness, forest and watershed health, and its conservation seedling program. Information on wildfire prevention programs will be available to fairgoers, along with information about the State Forestry's many other programs. State Forestry will be selling conservation tree seedlings at their exhibit booth in the Natural Resources Building on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the fair. This popular fair program features native, well established trees and shrubs. The seedlings are for sale on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on those days.

On Friday, September 14th, State Forestry will celebrate Firefighter's Day and Smokey Bear Day at the fair by displaying a State Forestry fire engine and firefighting gear and equipment outside the Natural Resources building along Main Street. Smokey Bear will be out and about during the day, greeting fairgoers and spreading his message that "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."