



AAA GREAT BATTERY ROUNDUP



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeannie Chavez, (505) 291-6696

AAA Great Battery Roundup® April 16-22

Motorists Urged to Remove and Recycle Old Vehicle, Motorcycle, Boat, Plane Batteries to Help New Mexico State Parks

(Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 11, 2007) -- The annual AAA Great Battery Roundup® in New Mexico starts April 16, in conjunction with Earth Day, April 22, and AAA New Mexico is urging people to scour garages, carports, yards, tool sheds, storage units and other places for used vehicle, motorcycle, boat and airplane batteries, and donate them at designated recycling sites.

For each battery “rounded up” and returned to one of AAA New Mexico’s nine designated battery recycling sites from April 16-22, AAA New Mexico will donate \$1.50 to the New Mexico State Park Foundation. Funds collected will support the Outdoor Classroom program, which gets New Mexico school children to outdoor learning locations. In 2006, New Mexico motorists donated approximately 250 junk batteries to the roundup.

“Thanks to AAA, New Mexico’s environment will be cleaner and safer, plus kids will get more chances to learn about the natural world,” said Dave Simon, Director of New Mexico State Parks.

“The impact of vehicle maintenance on the environment is often an overlooked aspect of responsible vehicle ownership,” said Ana Gonzalez, regional manager for AAA New Mexico. Leaking battery acid can poison children and animals. It also seeps into the ground and pollutes soil and water, potentially affecting the quality of our drinking water supply. If batteries are disposed of near our lakes, rivers and coastal waters, the lead and sulfuric acid can threaten marine life, she added.

For those who don’t have a battery to contribute but want to be part of the campaign, contributions also can be sent to the New Mexico State Park Foundation, P.O. Box 93096, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199.

Write in AAA Great Battery Roundup® in the memo line of the check.

AAA New Mexico suggests the following battery recycling safety tips:

- Consumers wear disposable protective gloves and safety glasses when handling batteries.
- For those transporting dead batteries for recycling, keep batteries upright and place them in a sturdy box or plastic container. Plastic containers can be purchased at local home repair and auto parts centers.
- If the battery case is cracked or leaking, be especially careful to choose a leak-proof container.
- Consumers should not smoke near, or expose the batteries to, an open flame and make certain they will not shift and tip over in a moving vehicle.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with warm water and soap afterwards, even though you wore gloves.

Albuquerque East Office
10501 Montgomery Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

(505) 291 6611 (800) 446 0377 (Toll-Free)

Albuquerque West
9231 Coors Rd NW Ste 5 & 6
Albuquerque, NM 87104

(505) 792 1938

Las Cruces
3991 E. Lohman Avenue, Suite A
Las Cruces, NM 88011

(505) 523 5681 (877) 862 0002 (Toll-Free)

Santa Fe
1644 St Michaels Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

(505) 471 6620 (800) 881 7585 (Toll-Free)

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The goal of the AAA Great Battery Roundup® campaign is to collect as many batteries as possible from throughout the state. New Mexico residents can take their old car batteries to one of the participating AAA Great Battery Roundup Collection Locations. Consumers are advised to verify operating hours, particularly weekend hours, for individual locations

AAA Great Battery Roundup Collection Locations

Alamogordo

- **Alamo Auto Center** - 2001 Arizona Ave., Alamogordo - (505) 437-5085

Albuquerque

- **Bee-Line Automotive** – 2508 Vermont NE, Albuquerque - (505) 275-6731
- **Flash Automotive** - 8333 Jefferson St. NE, Albuquerque - (505) 856-8333
- **Santa Fe Tow** – 5150 G Edith Blvd NE, Albuquerque – (505) 344-2773
- **Town & Country Towing** – 150 Woodward Se – Albuquerque – (505) 246-2202

Las Cruces

- **Action Towing** – 750 N. Valley, Las Cruces – (505) 523-9337
- **Aguirre Auto Service Inc.** - 2460 Lakeside Dr., Las Cruces - (505) 647-3434

Rio Rancho

- **ASAP Towing** – 108 Industrial Park Loop, Rio Rancho - (505) 896-9757
- **Southern Boulevard Automotive** – 2300 Southern Blvd, Rio Rancho – (505) 892-2300

The mission of the New Mexico State Parks Division is to protect and enhance natural resources, provide recreational facilities and opportunities, and promote public safety and education to benefit and enrich the lives of visitors.

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