



DUI Awareness

WEEK 8: 13 JULY, 2020

DRIVING AFTER DRINKING

Every day, almost 30 people in the United States die in drunk-driving crashes - that's one person every 50 minutes. Driving after drinking is deadly. Yet it still continues to happen across the United States. If you drive while impaired, you could get arrested, or worse - be involved in a traffic crash that causes serious injury or death.

Alcohol is a substance that reduces the function of the brain, impairing thinking, reasoning and muscle coordination. All these abilities are essential to operating a vehicle safely. As alcohol levels rise in a person's system, the negative effects on the central nervous system increase, too. Alcohol is absorbed directly through the walls of the stomach and small intestine. Then it passes

into the bloodstream where it accumulates until it is metabolized by the liver.

Alcohol level is measured by the weight of the alcohol in a certain volume of blood. This



is called Blood Alcohol Concentration, or BAC. At a BAC of .08 grams of alcohol per deciliter (g/dL) of blood, crash risk increases exponentially. Because of this risk, it's illegal in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher.

Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with BACs of .08 g/dL or higher). In 2018, there were 10,511 people killed in these preventable crashes. Of those, 231 were children under 14. However, even a small amount of alcohol can affect driving ability. In 2018, there were 1,878 people killed in alcohol-related crashes where drivers had a BAC below .08.

For more information, visit [nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).

KNOW THE LAW WHERE YOU ARE

In 2011, California joined many other states by allowing the Department of Motor vehicles to immediately suspend the driver's license of anyone suspected of driving under the influence. This law, known as "Admin Per Se", enables law enforcement to confiscate a suspected offender's driver's license. The license is then sent to the DMV, where it is held until the predetermined suspension time is over or the charge is found to have no merit at a hearing.

CALIFORNIA DUI LAWS

California's **driving under the influence** (DUI) laws mirror that of the base law as far as the **blood alcohol concentration** (BAC) percentages is concerned. The state's DUI laws **include medications**, too. You can't legally drive if you've consumed illegal drugs, excessive amounts of drugs with alcohol in them (such as cough syrup), or prescription and over the counter medication.

IMPLIED CONSENT LAWS

Base drivers must agree to a chemical test of blood or breath whenever there is a reasonable cause to suspect that the driver is operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Refusal to submit to such tests will result in immediate suspension of base driving privileges and the state in which driver's license is held may be notified of the suspension.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

If base drivers under the age of 21 have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .01% or greater, base driving privileges will be



revoked. If base drivers are over the age of 21 and have a (BAC) of .05-.07, base driving privileges may be revoked for 12 months and 6 points will be assigned. If a base driver is over the age of 21 and has a BAC of .08% or greater, base driving privileges will be revoked. This revocation policy applies to all military installations. Further, the state in which driver's license is held may be notified of the suspension. In addition, remedial driver training and substance abuse counseling must be completed.

The tangible cost of a DUI can cost thousands of dollars and gaining a criminal record. The intangible cost among others is the loss of respect of those around you and reduced chance for career advancement. As many leaders say, it's just not worth it.



LOOK OUT FOR YOUR FRIENDS

Preventing a friend, coworker, family member or associate from driving drunk can be a tricky situation. A person under the influence of alcohol is less likely to make reasonable choices. You have to step up to be their voice of reason, which can be a challenging task. Here are some ways to help prevent someone from drinking and driving:

1. Be a Designated Driver. If you and friends plan to go out for the night, volunteer to be the designated driver. Pick everyone up or get everyone's keys in advance.

2. Plan Ahead. This may seem like a no-brainer, but make a pact with your friends to never let each other drink and drive. If they have to leave their vehicle somewhere, make a promise to drive them back to their car in the morning.

3. Pay for a Ride. Suggest other ways for the impaired person to get home – and offer

to pay. Ridesharing apps, like Uber and Lyft, make it easier than ever to request a ride for yourself or a friend. Calling a taxi or using public transportation are great options as well.

4. Stay Persistent. Remember that the person you are trying to help is not thinking clearly. Be casual and non-confrontational, but insist that they find another way home.

5. Let them Sleep Over. Offer your couch for them to sleep it off. If the festivities took place at your home, invite them to sleep over on the couch or in the spare bedroom.

6. Get Help. Enlist one or several friends to prevent an intoxicated friend from driving home. It is harder to say "No" when everyone is suggesting the same thing.



7. Stand Firm. Remind the driver that you care about them, their safety and their wallet. Tell them you would never forgive yourself if something happened to them on the way home. Remind them of the harsh financial costs of getting a DUI and the devastating emotional costs of causing a fatal accident.

For more information visit madd.org.

THE REAL COST OF A DUI

Most of us are well aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. The exponentially increased risk of hurting yourself and others in an accident should be more than enough to deter everyone from Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

Still, just to make the case against drinking and driving even stronger, consider the outrageous cost you will meet if you are convicted of a DUI. Here is a list of things to consider.

- **You may be taken to jail.** Even first-time offenders can be arrested and bail may be required in varying amounts.

- **Towing and Impound.** If your vehicle is towed, you'll pay a minimum towing fee and impounding fees add each day.

- **Attorney.** You may need one and if you go to trial, the cost will increase drastically.

- **DMV Hearing.** You may need an attorney for the hearing and may have to pay for witnesses to testify.

- **Court Costs.** Fines and court costs will add up to several thousand dollars. Even if you are a first-time offender with a clean record!

- **DUI Class.** A required alcohol program could cost \$500 or more.

- **Ignition Interlock Device.** You may have to pay for installation and a monthly fee.

- **Insurance.** Your rates could be 3-5 times your previous rate.

While each case is different, estimating on the low end, you'll still pay about \$9,975.00 for your DUI. If you drank a six-pack before getting pulled over, that is \$1,662.50 per beer!! Keep in mind that it doesn't end there. You may also experience loss of rank and forfeiture of pay which will add to the total cost of your DUI conviction.

Is it really worth it?

A person is killed by a drunk driver every 50 minutes.



CAMP PENDLETON SAFETY CENTER

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Have a question? Email us at: Cpen_safety_help@usmc.mil

Commanding General's Safety Hotline: 760.763.7233