

August 29, 2008

Albertans reminded of consequences of impaired driving

Despite life-threatening risks, motorists still drink and drive

Edmonton... Albertans are reminded to separate drinking from driving this weekend. Long-weekend activities like camping and football games often involve drinking alcohol and, unfortunately, many motorists choose to get behind the wheel after “having a few.”

Each year in Alberta, about 110 people are killed and 1,970 injured in collisions involving at least one driver under the influence of alcohol. Males between 18 and 24 are most likely to have been drinking before a crash. There were five times as many male drivers as female drivers who had consumed alcohol before a collision.

Impairment begins with the first drink and if convicted, the driver faces life-altering consequences that include the following:

- being arrested
- a criminal record
- fines
- possible jail time
- loss of driver’s licence
- an immediate 24-hour licence suspension
- the possibility of going on the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program
- an automatic minimum three-month Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension
- an automatic six-month licence suspension if the offense results in bodily harm or death
- living with the knowledge he or she may have contributed to a death or serious injury

If a person suspects a driver is impaired, they should record the vehicle licence plate number and report the information to the police by dialing 911 anywhere in the province.

For more information on traffic safety, go to www.saferoads.com.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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