

December 4, 2009

Province gets tough on impaired drivers this holiday season

Edmonton... The message is clear: if you drive impaired you will be caught. This holiday season, law enforcement agencies across Alberta will be cracking down on impaired drivers through enhanced Check Stops as part of our ongoing effort to save lives and reduce injuries on Alberta's roads.

Every year, more than 110 people are killed and 1,900 injured in collisions involving alcohol. In 2008, 22 per cent of all drivers in fatal collisions had consumed alcohol, and on average about 7,700 people are convicted of impaired driving in Alberta each year.

Impaired driving imposes huge costs on our society: families, the health care system, the legal system, insurance companies and the general public all pay the price for impaired drivers. Motorists who choose to drink or use drugs and drive face not only killing themselves, their friends or someone else, but also very serious legal, financial, and social consequences.

December is impaired driving awareness month on the Traffic Safety Plan Calendar, and the Alberta government is reminding Albertans of the dangerous consequences of driving under the influence.

This holiday season, remember these important points.

- Make the right choice for everyone - don't drive if you have been drinking or using drugs.
- You do not have to be legally drunk to be charged with impaired driving.
- Plan ahead for safe transportation. There are alternatives to impaired driving.
- If you encounter a suspected impaired driver, record the vehicle license plate number and dial 911 anywhere in the province.

For more information and resources on impaired driving, visit www.saferoads.com or contact the Office of Traffic Safety at 780-422-8839 or your regional traffic safety coordinator. To find your local coordinator, visit www.saferoads.com and click on Contact Us, then the [Regional Traffic Safety Coordinator](#) on the left-hand side.

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