



August 6, 2010

Province keeps the heat on impaired drivers

If you drive impaired - you will be caught

Edmonton... Law enforcement agencies throughout Alberta will target impaired drivers in coordinated Checkstops in August. The message is clear: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated.

Impaired driving is a crime and is the leading cause of criminal death in Canada. It imposes enormous costs on our society: families, the health care system, the legal system, insurance companies and individuals all pay the price for impaired drivers. Drivers who choose to drive impaired could kill themselves, their friends or someone else, and also face very serious legal, financial, and social consequences.

In 2008, 22.5 per cent of drivers involved in fatal collisions had been drinking or were impaired. During the summer months, casualty collisions involving alcohol typically increase especially on long weekends. In Alberta, about 8,000 people are convicted of impaired driving each year.

From 2004 to 2008, on average each year, more than 110 people were killed and almost 1900 people were injured in collisions involving at least one driver who had consumed alcohol prior to the crash. Specifically, in 2008, 107 people were killed and 1881 were injured.

Before you get in your vehicle, remember these safety tips:

- Make the right decision for everyone's sake - don't drive if you have been drinking or using drugs.
- Keep in mind that you do not have to be legally drunk to be charged with impaired driving.
- Plan ahead for safe transportation - call a cab or use a designated driver.
- If you encounter a suspected impaired driver, record the vehicle license plate number and dial 911 anywhere in the province.

Alberta's Traffic Safety Plan focuses on education, communications, enforcement, engineering and community mobilization. The Traffic Safety Plan calendar focuses on impaired driving for the month of August.

For more information, contact the Office of Traffic Safety at 780-422-8839 or your Regional Traffic Safety Coordinator. To find your local coordinator, visit the Saferoads website at www.saferoads.com and click on Contact Us, then the Regional Traffic Safety Coordinators link on the left-hand side.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Paul Oss

Communications

Alberta Transportation

780-644-5786 or 780-619-5874 (Cell)

paul.oss@gov.ab.ca

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Transportation Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2010 Government of Alberta

