



Many people feel they are exempt from the devastation of drinking and driving. They believe it will never happen to them. The reality is, if anyone consumes alcohol and then drives, it is everyone's problem. A person may not possess a drivers licence or even have access to a vehicle; even so their life can still be directly or indirectly affected by an incident of impaired driving.

IMPAIRMENT - a state of damage or weakness.

The mind and body of an impaired person is in a temporary state of weakness or damage also known as "impairment". Impairment can be caused by alcohol or a drug.

FACTS OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

- Approximately 864 people die in alcohol related traffic crashes in Canada each year. Thousands more sustain serious injury.
- Families are separated, lives are torn apart because of the devastating act of impaired driving.
- Annual cost associated with alcohol related crashes exceed 5 billion.

AFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND IMPAIRED DRIVING

- Visual problems – blurred vision, multiple vision
- Slowed thought process
- Judgment is diminished
- Slowed reaction time
- Loss of concentration
- Drowsiness

Young people between the ages of 16 – 19 years of age are at the highest risk for traffic collisions due to their inexperience. Inexperience of driving coupled with consumption of alcohol is a deadly mix.

THE LAW AND IMPAIRED DRIVING

It is a criminal offence to operate any motorized vehicle, vessel, bicycle or wheelchair while impaired by a drug or alcohol. Motorized vehicles include automobiles, trains, snowmobiles and ATV's. Vessels include jet skis, motorboats, etc.

The following criminal offences carry the same penalties:

- Drive Impaired
- Fail or Refuse Breathalyser
- Drive Over .08
- Have Care and Control

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

- 10 Points on Drivers License
- \$600 - \$2,000 dollar fine
- Mandatory assessment by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba at a cost of \$300
- No workers permit
- Vehicle towed and impounded
- Lawyers fees of \$1,500 - \$5,000
- 12 months to Lifetime prohibition from driving
- Minimum 14 days in jail

Impaired Driving Cause Bodily Harm

- Up to 10 years in jail

Impaired Driving Cause Death

- Up to 14 years in jail

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES

Consequences can impact an individual's life for a lifetime, the most severe being the loss of a human life.

- Loss of loved ones
- Guilt
- Loss of job or career
- Financial
- Loss of self esteem
- Loss of drivers license
- Loss of freedom (jail)

PREVENTION TIPS

If your youth is planning a night out with friends and alcohol may be involved speak to your youth about the dangers, legal and social consequences of Impaired Driving.

Instruct your child to:

- Plan ahead
- Choose a designated driver
- Take the bus or cab
- Call a friend
- Learn to say "No"

OTHER INFORMATION

If you wish more information or have any questions about Impaired Driving, please contact the Winnipeg Police Community Relations Unit at 986-6322.