



SDSU

Crime Prevention Unit

www.police.sdsu.edu
(619) 594-1991

CALL 9-1-1
**FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL**

502 Blues



Alcohol is responsible for more than 100,000 deaths a year. The leading cause of deaths is drunken driving crashes. The first area of the brain affected controls social inhibitions and other values we have learned. This often causes us to use bad judgment and engage in high risk activities. Alcohol also affects the portion of the brain controlling motor skills. Reaction time is slowed and judgment is impaired. Physical symptoms will vary but will usually include; poor coordination, staggering gait, slurred and incoherent speech, sluggishness, drowsiness and droopy eyelids. Alcohol is absorbed directly into the blood stream without being digested. The blood alcohol level (BAC) can be estimated based on the amount of alcohol consumed and the person's body weight (See BAC chart).

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN... I am stopped for driving while under the influence?

If you have been stopped and are suspected of driving while under the influence, the officer will be looking for objective symptoms of intoxication. Some of these objective symptoms are the odor of an alcoholic beverage, bloodshot or watery eyes, slurred speech or unsteady balance.

If the officer notices these objective symptoms, the officer will then administer field sobriety tests. The officer will be looking at basic coordination, balance, and concentration. A Preliminary Alcohol Screening Test may also be administered in the field.

If you are under the age of 21 years and have a blood alcohol content of .01% or higher, your license will be suspended for up to one year and your car may be impounded (.01% or greater means, for practicality sake, any amount of alcohol is a violation.)

If you have passed the field sobriety tests, the officer at his/her discretion can call a taxi, have a friend drive you home, or let you drive away.

WHAT HAPPENS IF... I have been arrested for suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol?

If you have been arrested for suspicion of drunk driving, you are required by California State Law to submit to a chemical test to determine the amount of alcohol in your blood (implied consent law - 23157 CVC(23157 (a) (1)). The three tests that are offered are blood, urine or breath. One or more of these tests may not be available due to special circumstances (i.e. injury to driver, etc.)

If you select a blood test, a nurse or phlebotomist will draw a blood sample and the sample will be analyzed at a lab on a later date. If you select a urine test, you will be required to give two samples in a 20 minute period. The 1st sample is used to void the bladder and it is discarded unless drugs are suspected. After a period of 20 minutes, a 2nd sample will be collected and analyzed for alcohol at a later date. If you select a breath test, you will be required to blow into a breathalyzer machine twice to complete the test. The results of this test are available immediately. Should you refuse or fail to complete a test, your privilege to drive will be automatically suspended for one (1) year by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

After the testing, if your test results show you have a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or more, your license will be taken away on the spot. An Administrative "PER SE" (in and of itself) order of suspension 13353.2 CVC (13353.2 (a)) is given. This is a driver's license suspension which is issued by the officer at the time of arrest. (You will be given a 30-day temporary driving permit to allow for review and appeal of your case to the DMV). The suspension becomes effective 30 days after it is issued. Upon completion of implied consent, you will be booked into county jail.

be safe... have a friend drive you home...

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT CHART

Estimated % of alcohol by number of drinks in relation to weight*

	DRINKS									
BODY WEIGHT (IN LBS.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
100	.038	.075	.113	.150	.188	.225	.263	.300	.338	.375
120	.031	.063	.094	.125	.156	.188	.218	.250	.281	.313
140	.027	.054	.080	.107	.134	.161	.188	.214	.241	.268
160	.023	.047	.070	.094	.117	.141	.164	.188	.211	.234
180	.021	.042	.063	.083	.104	.125	.146	.167	.188	.208
200	.019	.038	.056	.075	.094	.113	.131	.150	.169	.188
220	.017	.034	.051	.068	.085	.102	.119	.136	.153	.170
240	.016	.031	.047	.063	.078	.094	.109	.125	.141	.156

In California it is unlawful for a person to drive with a BAC level of .08% or higher

* These figures are meant to be used as only as a guideline and not to be used to determine how much you can safely drink. A person may be legally impaired with a substantially lower BAC% depending on the person's physical condition, level of tolerance, other medications, etc.

For the purposes of this chart, one drink of alcohol is:

- 1). a 12 oz. can of beer or
- 2). a 5 oz. glass of wine or
- 3). 1-1/2 oz. of 80 proof liquor.

They all contain equivalent amounts of alcohol.



Please don't drink and drive.

DUI Statistics

- About three out of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives unless we act now.
- In 2002, an estimated 17,419 persons were killed in alcohol-related crashes. These deaths accounted for 43.5 percent of the 40,115 total traffic fatalities.
- More than one-half million people were injured in 2001 in crashes where police or medical personnel reported alcohol was present. That is an average of one injury every two minutes.
- About 33 percent of 21–24 year old drivers killed in traffic crashes had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher.
- 1.4 million people were arrested for DUI in 2001. Arrests were highest in the 25-29 year-old age group. (FBI, 1993)
- The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08 BAC. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)
- Direct costs of alcohol-related crashes are estimated to be \$50 billion yearly, accounting for 22% of all crash costs. An additional \$90 billion is lost in quality of life due to these crashes. (NATSA, 2000)
- In 2002, 84% of the drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes were intoxicated (NCSA).



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