

AUGUST/LABOR DAY CRACKDOWN



National *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Crackdown

Make the Crackdown Count: August 20–September 6, 2010

The Crime of Impaired Driving

- All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have established a threshold making it illegal per se to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter or higher.
- Yet nearly 12,000 people in 2008 were killed in U.S. highway crashes involving drivers or motorcycle riders with illegal BACs of .08 or higher, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics.
- Impaired driving is clearly a crime, not an “accident.” In fact, it’s one of America’s most often-committed and deadliest crimes.
- That’s why law enforcement agencies nationwide will be cracking down on the crime of impaired driving August 20 to September 6.
- Our message remains simple and unwavering: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*
- No matter what you drive or when, if the police catch you driving impaired, the police will arrest you. No exceptions.
- Fortunately, much of the tragedy that results from impaired-driving crashes could be prevented if everyone followed these safety recommendations:
 - If you are planning to drink alcohol with friends, designate a sober driver before going out — and give that person your keys;
 - If you are impaired, do not drive — call a taxi, use mass transit, or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
 - Promptly report impaired drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement;
 - Wear your seat belt while in a car or use a helmet and protective gear when on a motorcycle, as these are your best defenses against impaired drivers;
 - And remember, if you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys — and help them get to where they are going safely.

Impaired-Driver Fatalities — Who and When

- In 2008, 5,432 passenger vehicle drivers 21 to 34 years old were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Of those, a total of 2,866 (53%) had illegal BACs of .08 g/dL or higher.
- Alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes was four times higher at night than during the day (36% versus 9%).
- Thirty-two percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes on weekends were alcohol-impaired, compared to 15 percent during the week.
- Because alcohol adversely affects those skills essential to operating a motorcycle — balance and coordination — alcohol plays a particularly significant role in motorcycle crash fatalities.
 - The percentage of drivers with BACs of .08 or above involved in fatal crashes in 2008 was highest for motorcycle riders (29%), followed by drivers of light trucks (23%) and passenger cars (23%).
 - Forty-three percent of the 2,291 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes had BACs of .08 or above.
 - The age groups of 45 to 49 and 40 to 45 had the highest percentages of impaired (BAC of .08 or higher) motorcycle riders killed in fatal crashes — 41.

Offenders and Consequences

- The consequences for the crime of driving while impaired are serious and real.
- Impaired drivers risk killing, disabling, disfiguring, and injuring themselves and others — sometimes their own friends and family.
- Along with all these potential consequences, violators also often face other significant personal and financial costs, such as:
 - Jail time, loss of their driver licenses, or being sentenced to use ignition interlocks;
 - Higher insurance rates;
 - Dozens of additional expenses, including attorney fees, fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, lost time at work, and more;
 - Embarrassment and humiliation when family, friends, co-workers, and employers learn of the arrest; and
 - Adverse and long-lasting effects on their career prospects and personal aspirations.

2010 Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. Crackdown

- In 2008, 32 percent of fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider with a BAC of .08 or above — an average of one fatality every 45 minutes.
- That's why U.S. law enforcement agencies will be aggressively enforcing impaired-driving laws during the national crackdown — at all times of the day and night.
- The national *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Impaired-driving crackdown is a program organized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- The program combines high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness. This year's crackdown is supported by \$11 million in paid national advertising to help put motorists on notice that if they are caught driving while impaired, they will be arrested.
- Don't take the risk. Law enforcement officers are on a mission to arrest impaired drivers, get them off the street, save more lives — and make the 2010 crackdown count. Remember: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*
- For more information on the crackdown, visit the High-Visibility Enforcement Campaign Headquarters at www.StopImpairedDriving.org.