

Impaired Driving

Crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs are one of the leading criminal causes of death in Canada.

Approximately 8,600 people are convicted of impaired driving in Alberta each year. Penalties for this offence range from a mandatory minimum fine to life imprisonment, depending on the severity of the offence. An average of 4 Canadians are killed and 175 are injured due to impaired driving each day.

Reminder: Impaired driving also applies to motorcycles, boats, ATVs and other forms of transportation.

Alcohol-Impaired

Even one drink of alcohol can reduce your reaction time, blur or double your vision, impair your reflexes, and alter your attention span. When you drink and then drive, alcohol affects your judgment, reaction time and perception.



Signs of alcohol-impaired driving:

1. Swerving between lanes
2. Driving abnormally quickly or slowly
3. Sudden stops and starts
4. Veering into oncoming traffic lanes
5. Not obeying stop signs/traffic lights

Drug-Impaired

Illegal drugs, cannabis, over-the-counter drugs, and prescription medications can all affect your judgment, coordination, and reaction time behind the wheel.

- Even small amounts of drugs can affect your ability to drive safely.
- Different drugs act on your brain in different ways, but almost all affect your attention, judgment, motor skills, reaction time, decision-making skills, balance, and coordination.

- Despite popular myth, driving after using cannabis is not safer than driving after drinking alcohol.
- Performance becomes even worse if drivers combine drugs, such as cannabis, with alcohol.
- Prescription drugs can also affect your ability to safely control a motor vehicle. Talk to your pharmacist before driving.

[For more information on penalties and limits visit the Government of Canada's Impaired Driving Laws website](#)