

Impaired Driving

“An average of 4 Canadians are killed & 175 are injured due to impaired driving each day.”

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.

Reminder

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

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.

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

- ▶ Swerving between lanes
- ▶ Driving abnormally quickly or slowly
- ▶ Sudden stops and starts
- ▶ Veering into oncoming traffic lanes
- ▶ Not obeying stop sign/traffic lights

Penalties

Penalties vary based on the severity of the offense and whether it's a first, second, or subsequent offense. For a first offense, you could receive a \$1,000 fine, license suspension, and potential jail time. Additionally, there are immediate roadside sanctions, including license suspensions and vehicle seizures.

Second and subsequent offenses carry increasingly severe penalties, including longer license suspensions and mandatory jail sentences.

Plan Ahead

- ▶ Take public transit
- ▶ Have a designated driver
- ▶ Call a friend or loved one
- ▶ Call a cab or rideshare
- ▶ Stay over



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