

Consequences of Impaired Driving

Media backgrounder – October 2016

Administrative consequences and costs

Immediate Roadside Suspensions for Impaired Driving				
Administrative Consequences	Warn Range (.04 – .08 BAC or drug impairment) Zero Drug and Alcohol tolerance for New Drivers ¹			Fail Range (Over .08 BAC or Refusal)
	1st Offence	2nd Offence (within 5 years)	3rd and Additional Offence (within 5 years)	All Drivers (within 10 years)
Immediate Roadside Licence Suspension ²	Experienced Driver: 3-day suspension New Driver: 60-day suspension	Experienced Driver: 21-day suspension New Driver: 120-day suspension	Experienced Driver: 90-day suspension New Driver: 18-month suspension	Criminal Code charges: Immediate roadside administrative suspension until charges are resolved
Vehicle Impoundment ³	New Driver: 3 days	All Drivers: 7 days	New Driver: 7 days Experienced Driver: 14 days	All Drivers: .08 to .15 BAC: 30 days .16 BAC and over or refusal: 60 days
Estimated Minimum ⁴ Towing, Storage Costs	\$190	\$250	7 days – \$250 14 days – \$355	30 days – \$595 60 days – \$1,045
Safe Driver Recognition ⁵	\$0 - \$1,000	\$0 - \$1,000	\$0 - \$1,000	.08 to .15 BAC: \$1,250 .16 BAC and over or refusal: \$2,250 ⁶
Impaired Driving Education Programs	Experienced Driver: DWI program New Driver: DWI program	Experienced Driver: Alcohol and Drug Education (ADE) program New Driver: ADE program	All Drivers: addictions assessment	All Drivers: 1st offence – DWI 2nd offence – ADE 3rd and additional – addictions assessment
Impaired Driving Education Program Costs	\$150 for DWI	\$450 for ADE		\$150 for DWI if required \$450 for ADE if required
Ignition Interlock Requirement	n/a	New Driver: voluntary ignition interlock for 120 days, after 60-day suspension	Experienced Driver: mandatory ignition interlock for 365 days, after 90-day suspension New Driver: voluntary ignition interlock after 365-day suspension for 365 days	All Drivers: 1st offence – 1 year 2nd offence – 2 years 3rd and additional – 5 years
Ignition Interlock Cost	n/a	\$545	\$1,185	\$1,185 - \$5,025
Estimated Total Cost	\$340 - \$1,340	\$1,245 - \$2,245 ⁷	\$1,435 - \$2,540 ⁷	\$3,180 - \$8,770 ⁷
Criminal Charges	n/a	n/a	n/a	Possible ⁸

Footnotes

- ¹ New drivers include anyone in the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program or Motorcycle GDL program (Endorsement 6, M1, M2) and anyone with a restricted or provisional licence.
- ² Roadside suspensions are separate and distinct from any charges a driver faces in court.
- ³ Mandatory vehicle impoundment.
- ⁴ Based on rates for vehicles under 5,500 kg and urban towing and storage costs.
- ⁵ Penalties are assessed through the Safe Driver Recognition (SDR) program - amount depends on driver's safety rating.
- ⁶ Criminal Code convictions for causing injury or death will result in a \$2,500 penalty.
- ⁷ Based on the maximum amount.
- ⁸ Plus legal costs, court fines and penalties.