

**SAFER  
ROADS  
ALLIANCE**



# Impaired Driving

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



### Federal criminal code

- It is a federal offence to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or cannabis.
- The illegal limit for driving under the influence of alcohol is 0.08% BAC or higher.
- For cannabis, there are two prohibited levels for driving with THC in the blood:
  1. A less serious offence is driving with between 2 – 5 nanograms of THC per milliliter (ml) of blood.
  2. It is a more serious offence if driving with more than 5 nanograms (ng) of THC.
- The prohibited levels of alcohol and cannabis, when found in combination, is **50mg or more of alcohol per 100ml blood and 2.5 ng or more of THC per ml of blood.**

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



### Federal criminal code

#### **Penalty for first impaired driving offence (conviction).**

- Mandatory minimum \$1,000 fine.
- Jail time, depending on the severity of the infraction.

#### **Penalty for second offence:**

- Minimum 30 days in jail to a maximum of 10 years in jail (depending on severity of conviction).
- With each conviction the penalty get more severe.
- Impaired driving causing death carries a maximum life imprisonment if convicted.

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



### Alberta' Impaired Driving Framework

- Under the Alberta Traffic and Safety Act, if a person's blood alcohol content (BAC) is between 0.05% - 0.79% they are not fit to operate a motor vehicle.
- In December 2020, the Alberta government introduced the Immediate Roadside Sanctions (IRS) Program, also known as the Administrative penalty.
- With every IRS the penalties increase in severity.
- This new provincial law is in addition to the federal impaired driving law.

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



### Alberta' Impaired Driving Framework

- Drivers with a BAC 0.05%-0.79%, and this is their first IRS, the penalties are as follows:
  - An immediate 3-day driving suspension, where you are unable to drive under any circumstances.
  - A 3-day vehicle seizure
  - A \$300 fine plus a 20% victim fine surcharge.

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



### Alberta' Impaired Driving Framework

- Drivers with a BAC 0.05%-0.79%, and this is their second IRS, the penalties are as follows:
  - An immediate 15-day driver's license suspension where you are unable to drive under any circumstances
  - a 7-day vehicle seizure
  - a \$600 fine plus victim fine surcharge of 20%
  - The driver must attend a remedial education Crossroads course

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



- The major difference between the federal impaired driving law and the Alberta Administrative law, in the federal law, if convicted it is a federal offence and carries a criminal record and even jail time, among other penalties.
- Having a criminal record can impact a person's ability to secure employment and travel abroad.

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



- Most casualty collisions involving alcohol occur on the weekends, and between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m.
- Drinking and driving are often associated with long weekends and holidays.
- On average in Alberta, one in six drivers involved in a fatal crash had alcohol prior to getting behind the wheel.



# Driving High is Driving Impaired



Did you know that low doses of cannabis result in impairment in thinking and physical skills such as movement, coordination and dexterity.

Cannabis consumption will impact your ability to:

- Maintain the correct speed
- Keep to your lane
- React appropriately

## Fast Facts on Alcohol & Drug Impairment



A BC study suggests the odds of a deadly crash can be **40 times higher** when combining alcohol and drugs behind the wheel. Compared to 5 times for cannabis and 7 times for alcohol on their own.

Please **Take the Pledge** to do all that you can do to keep our highways safer for you and all that travel on them.

[Take the Pledge](#)



# Drive Safe

More road safety tips can be found on  
[saferalbertaroads.ca](https://www.saferalbertaroads.ca)