



GO BIG OR GO HOME – Impaired Driving and Speeding

Activities

MOCK CRASH

OBJECTIVE

Very few people actually see a major car crash with people they know involved so it never seems like it could happen to us. This activity gives students the chance to witness the results of drinking and driving and/or speeding.

HOW THE ACTIVITY WORKS

A mock crash simulates a car crash in which student volunteers are the crash victims. This activity requires significant advance planning and the permission and support of the school district and school principal. The “Sample Request Letter to Principal” included here can be used to secure permission.

The vehicle is a previously-wrecked vehicle that is brought to your location. It is set up to simulate a crash and student volunteers are transformed into the victims and placed in and near the crashed car. Once the crash scene is set and the crash victims are in place (usually just before a school break or change of classes where the students would be heading outside), police arrive with lights flashing and sirens blaring. The principal makes an announcement that there was a serious crash outside and everyone is to stay well back. On cue, the fire truck and ambulance crews arrive and go through an authentic-looking rescue: jaws of life, emergency treatment of the injured, and beer bottles being thrown from the car onto the grass (so that the students watching know alcohol was involved). Police run the driver through the breath test and then make an arrest.

After the victims have left in the ambulance, everyone is called to an assembly. The crash victims return to school, remove their make-up and participate in the assembly. The speaker(s) debrief the school about what had happened. These speakers could be your local police, the ambulance attendants, the fire fighters and/or an ICBC RoadSense Speaker.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

You will have some very upset people. You have played with their emotions and they will be shaken. The sick feeling in their stomachs will help them remember that it could happen to their friends when they drink and drive. This type of dramatic project can trigger sad memories of friends or family who have died. Have someone in your group talk with the counselors to make sure they will be at the crash scene, at the assembly in the school and available afterwards. At the end of the assembly have your emcee announce if anyone wants to talk, that the counselors will be available.

** Do not undertake this activity if your school or community has lost someone in a crash.*

PLANNING A MOCK CRASH

The vehicle

- Contact a local auto wrecker to arrange for a vehicle donation and towing. Ensure the previous owner(s) of the vehicle agrees to the display (have them sign the “Vehicle Release for Use in a Road Safety Program”) and make sure the vehicle poses no safety hazards such as leaking gas tank, jagged edges or broken glass.
- Provide the vehicle’s registration number to your local ICBC claim centre manager and ensure the occupants were wearing seatbelts and there was no breach in insurance coverage at the time of the crash. No criminal charges or motor vehicle breaches should have stemmed from the crash and there should be no question of liability. A vehicle from a single vehicle crash is best.
- Do not use a vehicle in which someone has been seriously injured or killed. You have a social responsibility not to exploit or compound the grief of the victim and/or family members. It is best if the vehicle occupants received only minor injuries or none at all.
- The vehicle should be one that would be attractive and appropriate to the audience (i.e. a newer model car)
- There must be no evidence of occupant impact damage from not wearing a seatbelt (i.e. head marks or dashboard marks).
- The vehicle must have operational seatbelts and be transportable by truck.
- Arrange to have the vehicle arrive just before the event and be towed away right afterwards.

The event

- Arrange for drama students or others to act as drivers and passengers. Create a story, using makeup to indicate the severity of injuries.
- Contact police, fire, and ambulance services and ask them to participate as if they were responding to a “real” crash.
- Create a detailed schedule for the crash. You need to have everyone know where they fit into the plan and at which time.
- Avoid setting up the scene in a high traffic area. Access roads to schools are easier to control. The location should be close to the school but not visible while class is in session and the scene is being set up. Involve your local police in picking a good location.
- Book the gym for the assembly to be held after the mock crash. Contact a teacher who might be a good emcee for the assembly.
- Avoid doing the mock crash at a time or location where young children might witness it.
- Having one of the emergency response representatives narrate how and why rescue crews are responding as they are can be helpful.
- Have a nurse or first aid representative on hand to deal with possible fainting.
- Contact local media and encourage them to attend.
- At the assembly following the mock crash, distribute CounterAttack pins or stickers and encourage your peers to drive responsibly.

SAMPLE REQUEST LETTER TO PRINCIPAL

DATE

PRINCIPAL
SCHOOL
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY POSTAL

Dear _____ (Name)

As per our recent conversation, please accept this letter as a formal request for your permission to hold a “mock crash” at _____ (Name of School) on _____ (Date of Mock Crash). The initiative will educate students about the positive role that seatbelts play in traffic crashes and about the consequences of drinking and driving.

Once your approval has been obtained, we will be arranging for a wrecked vehicle to be towed to the school on _____ (Date of Mock Crash). Please note that we will be taking care of all other details pertaining to the set up of the “mock crash” as well.

It is our understanding that you will ensure that this does not contravene any guidelines set by our school board.

If you have any questions or wish to meet to discuss the “crash” in further detail, please contact me or our sponsor teacher, _____ (Name of Sponsor Teacher).

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to help get our very important traffic safety message across to our fellow students.

Sincerely,

Name of Student Representative

VEHICLE RELEASE FOR USE IN A ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

I (we) am (are) the registered owner(s) of _____
(Name of Vehicle) _____ (Year of Vehicle) with Registration No. _____.

I understand that _____ (Name of School/Committee) wishes to use my vehicle for public display as part of a “mock crash” for the purpose of educating students about the consequences of drinking and driving. As part of this program, I agree that my vehicle may be displayed and photos or film of it prepared. In addition, details as to the cause of the crash and any injuries suffered may be released publicly.

Neither my name nor that of any passengers in my vehicle will be divulged nor will my license plate be displayed. It is my understanding that the ultimate goal of the program and the use of my vehicle are to educate high school students and/or the general public about traffic safety.

The _____ (Name of School/Committee) shall be responsible for any liability arising from the use of my vehicle in the event.

Therefore, in consideration of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby release, remiss and forever discharge _____ (Name of School/Committee), its successors and assigns, from any and all claims of any nature or kind whatsoever, which I, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns may have against the _____ (Name of School/Committee) for using my vehicle as contained herein and releasing the detail of my claim.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

WITNESS REGISTERED OWNER