

worth it
Don't Drink & Drive. New Rules. No Chances.

It's not

you lose...



Northwest
Territories Transportation

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If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is introducing new rules to reduce impaired driving on our roads. Starting December 1, 2004, these new rules mean that people who are caught drinking and driving will automatically lose their privilege to drive.

- Drivers caught with .05 to .08 blood alcohol content will automatically have their driver's licence suspended for 24 hours for a first offence or 30 days for further offences within a 2 year period.
- New drivers with any blood alcohol content will automatically have their driver's licence suspended for 30 days.
- Drivers caught with over .08 blood alcohol content or who refuse to provide a breathalyzer sample will automatically have their driver's licences suspended for 90 days in addition to Criminal Code charges for impaired driving.
- Drivers convicted of impaired driving under the Criminal Code will automatically be prohibited from driving for:
 - 1 year for a first conviction
 - 3 years for a second conviction
 - 5 years for a third conviction
 - 5 years + for additional convictions or if the offence caused a death.

A Message from the Minister

In 1995, the Department of Transportation established an interagency working group to address the unacceptable health and road safety issues associated with drinking and driving.

The Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving (STRID) Working Group was comprised of representatives from the RCMP, Yellowknife Fire Department, Students Against Impaired Driving (SADD), NWT Medical Association, Stanton Territorial Hospital, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education, Culture & Employment. The STRID Working Group subsequently recommended to the Minister of Transportation that substantial changes were required to deal with the serious issue of impaired driving in the NWT.

It may be the public's perception that we are winning the fight against drinking and driving, but too many Canadians are still dying or being injured every year in motor vehicle accidents involving drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs. In the Northwest Territories, the incidence of motor vehicle accidents where alcohol or drugs was a factor has been higher than the national average, according to the annual Transport Canada report on vehicle collisions in Canada.

Effective December 1, 2004, the Department of Transportation will bring into force a law with strong penalties aimed directly at impaired drivers. Anyone who continues to show contempt for the rights and safety of their fellow citizens and the law against impaired driving will now suffer more serious consequences in the form of increased penalties and licence reinstatement conditions.

As residents of the NWT, we all have the right to expect that the privilege of a driver's licence is offered only to safe drivers. Beyond the changes planned for December 1, 2004, studies have demonstrated that new drivers of all ages have higher collision rates than drivers with more experience. New drivers, particularly those of a young age, are at even higher risk when they have consumed even small amounts of alcohol. In June, 2005, the Department will also introduce a graduated driver licensing program that will establish a zero Blood Alcohol Content limit for new drivers during the graduated licensing period.

I would like to thank the members of the STRID Working Group, MLAs and members of the public who have challenged government to bring into force new legislative authorities to deal decisively and effectively with the issue of impaired driving.



Hon. Michael McLeod
Minister of Transportation

- Drivers wishing to have their driving privileges reinstated after an administrative licence suspension will have to pay reinstatement fees and may be required to satisfy conditions including:
 - an alcohol dependency assessment
 - a driver assessment
 - participation in a driver improvement program
 - participation in an alcohol dependency awareness program
 - participation in an alcohol treatment program
 - participation in an alcohol ignition interlock program
 - any other condition the Registrar considers appropriate
- Police will have authority to impound a vehicle for 30 days if the vehicle is operated by a driver whose driving privileges are suspended.

Why is the GNWT getting tougher on drinking and driving?

The public perception is that we're winning the fight against drunk driving. But despite increased police checks and harsher penalties, impaired driving remains the number one cause of criminal death and injury. Drinking and driving is responsible for forty percent of all motor vehicle deaths - that's almost 2,000 Canadians every year. In the Northwest Territories annual traffic injury reports indicate that, on a per capita basis, the severity of drinking and driving has been as high as twice that of the rest of Canada.