



The Washington Regional  
Alcohol Program's (WRAP)  
2010 Corporate Guide  
to Safe Celebrating and  
Safe Driving

*“A public-private partnership working to  
prevent drunk driving and underage drinking  
in the Washington-metropolitan region.”*



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Impaired driving is a serious problem both nationally as well as locally in the Washington-metropolitan area where the tragic effects are seen on a daily basis. Communities pay both a human and economic toll for impaired driving and therefore should take the lead in solving this problem. Community partnerships are essential to making effective the combination of public information, education, advocacy and law enforcement. Employers are key partners in the battle to keep the Greater Washington roads safe. Use WRAP's guide as a resource to stay safe during the holidays and throughout the year.

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# Washington Regional Alcohol Program



Founded in 1982, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning, public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington D.C. metropolitan region. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the percentage of Washington-metropolitan area alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. Area residents, however, may best know WRAP via the organization's popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide®.



## Community Programs and Initiatives

The nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) offers a vast array of services to fight impaired driving in the Washington-metropolitan area. The following are some of the programs and services we provide.

### **SoberRide® ([www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com))**

WRAP's SoberRide®, one of the nation's most successful free cab ride programs for would be impaired drivers, has helped to ensure that Washington-metropolitan area residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. Since 1993 alone, 47,813 safe rides home have been provided to would-be drunk drivers.

Currently, SoberRide® operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween. During these high-risk holidays, callers, age 21 and over, may receive a free cab ride home (up to \$50) by calling (800) 200-TAXI or #TAXI for AT&T users. Visit [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com) for details and running times.

### **Safe And Vital Employees (SAVE)**

This business/military outreach program brings traffic safety right into the workplace. Through SAVE, WRAP talks directly to employees and military personnel about the physical, economic and legal consequences of impaired driving. Additionally, WRAP provides guidelines for safe celebrating and the reduction of alcohol-induced risky behaviors.

The goal of the program is to keep employees and military personnel safe, healthy and productive while helping to reduce health insurance, workers' compensation costs and other related expenses. To help capture the attention of the employees and add credibility to the effort, WRAP works closely with area police departments and drunk driving victims.

To arrange this no-cost, 45-minute, individually customized program, please contact WRAP at (703) 893-0461.

For a more detailed listing of our programs, please visit our web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

## High Costs to Businesses

Employers lose billions of dollars annually as a result of on and off the job motor vehicle injuries. This accounts for:

- Lost work time
- Insurance premium increases
- Workers compensation payments
- Lost productivity
- Administrative burdens
- Lowered employee morale
- Loss of a trained, trusted employee

Many of these injuries occur as a result of impaired driving, and much of this cost could be prevented by the ability to recognize on-the-job warning signs of alcohol and drug abuse. It is important to remember that while these signs can indicate potential substance abuse they are also indicative of other problems and do not constitute a definite diagnosis.

- Inconsistent work quality
- Poor concentration
- Lowered productivity
- Increased absenteeism
- Unexplained disappearances from the job site
- Carelessness, mistakes
- Errors in judgment
- Needless risk-taking
- Disregard for safety
- Regular injuries and accidents on the job
- Extended lunch periods and early departures
- Fatigue
- Frequent financial problems
- Red and glazed eyes

*Information provided by American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.*

## Taking a Stand

Your company can save money and make a difference by taking a stand against impaired driving.

- Host WRAP's Safe And Vital Employees Program (see page 3) during a brown bag lunch to inform and educate employees on drunk driving laws and consequences.
- Place check-stuffers in paycheck envelopes containing various elements of the drunk driving information outlined in this guide or contact WRAP for SoberRide® materials.
- Provide support and funding to local police departments for their efforts to reduce drunk driving (i.e. sponsor a sobriety checkpoint).
- Create an awards program which recognizes employees for their efforts in promoting safe and responsible driving.
- Send a memo to employees explaining the impaired driving legislation being introduced this year, and encourage them to contact their local elected officials to show their support.

Please feel free to contact WRAP at (703) 893-0461 for further suggestions.



## Regional DUI/DWI Arrests

	2007	2008
	DUI/DWI Arrests	DUI/DWI Arrests
District of Columbia	2,224	1,655
Montgomery County, MD	3,487	3,854
Prince George's County, MD	1,814	1,831
Arlington County, VA	647	677
City of Alexandria, VA	567	515
City of Fairfax, VA	184	181
City of Falls Church, VA	48	67
City of Manassas, VA	160	110
City of Manassas Park, VA	N/A *	60
Fairfax County, VA	2,586	3,148
Loudoun County, VA	690	818
Prince William County, VA	1,935	2,199
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>14,342</b>	<b>15,115</b>

\* Data unavailable

Information provided by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

## Alcohol/Drug-Related Vehicular Fatalities

Washington Metropolitan-Area 2008		
	Traffic Fatalities	Alcohol/Drug Related Traffic Fatalities
District of Columbia	40	9
Montgomery County, MD	52	14
Prince George's County, MD	129	38
Arlington County, VA	8	3
City of Alexandria, VA	3	1
City of Fairfax, VA	0	0
City of Falls Church, VA	0	0
City of Manassas, VA	1	0
City of Manassas Park, VA	0	0
Fairfax County, VA	29	13
Loudoun County, VA	11	5
Prince William County, VA	24	9
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>National Total</b>	<b>37,261</b>	<b>13,846</b>

Information provided by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

# Local Drunk Driving Laws & Consequences

Laws	District of Columbia
<b>Legal Drinking Age</b>	21
<b>Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) 21 and Over</b>	.08 BAC
<b>Automatic License Revocation</b>	License can be taken for refusing to take the test or for having a .08 BAC or higher
<b>1st Offense DUI/DWI</b>	<b>Fine:</b> Up to \$300 <b>Jail:</b> Up to 90 days <b>Suspend License:</b> Six months <b>If BAC is .20 to .25:</b> Mandatory minimum five days in jail. <b>If BAC is above .25:</b> Mandatory minimum 10 days in jail
<b>2nd Offense DUI/DWI</b>	<b>Fine:</b> \$1,000 to \$5,000 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Suspend License:</b> One year <b>If BAC is .20 to .25:</b> Mandatory minimum 10 days in jail. <b>If BAC is above .25:</b> Mandatory minimum 20 days in jail
<b>3rd Offense DUI/DWI</b>	<b>Fine:</b> \$2,000 to \$10,000 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Suspend License:</b> Two years <b>If BAC is .20 to .25:</b> Mandatory minimum 10 days in jail. <b>If BAC is above .25:</b> Mandatory minimum 25 days in jail
<b>Adults Who Aid Under 21 years old in Obtaining Alcohol</b>	<b>Fine:</b> \$300 <b>Revoke License:</b> Up to 90 days

# Local Drunk Driving Laws & Consequences

Maryland	Virginia
21	21
.08 BAC for DUI .07 BAC for DWI	.08 BAC
License can be taken for refusing to take the test or for having a .08 BAC or higher. DUI convictions w/refusal result in additional up to \$500 fine or 2-month jail sentence.	License can be taken for refusing to take the test or for having a .08 BAC or higher
<b>DUI</b> <b>Fine:</b> Up to \$1,000 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Revoke License:</b> Six months - 12 points on your license <b>DWI</b> <b>Fine:</b> Up to \$500 <b>Jail:</b> Up to 60 days <b>Suspend License:</b> 60 days - 8 points on your license <b>If BAC is above .15:</b> 90-day license suspension	<b>Fine:</b> \$250 to \$2,500 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Revoke License:</b> One year <b>If BAC is .15 to .20:</b> <b>Jail:</b> Mandatory minimum five days in jail. <b>If BAC is above .20:</b> <b>Jail:</b> Mandatory minimum 10 days in jail & mandatory ignition interlock
<b>DUI</b> <b>Fine:</b> Up to \$2,000 <b>Jail:</b> Up to two years with a mandatory minimum of 5 days <b>Revoke License:</b> 12 months <b>Suspend License:</b> 1 year, 3-12 months ignition interlock period - 12 points on your license - Alcohol abuse assessment and program <b>DWI</b> <b>Fine:</b> \$500 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Suspend License:</b> Up to 120 days - 8 points on your license <b>If BAC is above .15:</b> 180-day license suspension	<b>Fine:</b> \$500 to \$2,500 <b>Jail:</b> 1 month to 1 year <b>Revoke License:</b> Three years <b>If BAC is .15 to .20:</b> Mandatory minimum 10 days in jail and mandatory ignition interlock. <b>If BAC is above .20:</b> Mandatory minimum 20 days in jail & mandatory ignition interlock
<b>DUI</b> <b>Fine:</b> Up to \$3,000 <b>Jail:</b> Up to three years <b>Revoke License:</b> 18 months <b>DWI</b> <b>Fine:</b> Up to \$500 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Suspend License:</b> Up to 12 months <b>If BAC is above .15:</b> 180-day license suspension	<b>Fine:</b> \$1,000 to \$2,500 <b>Jail:</b> 6 months to 5 years <b>Revoke License:</b> indefinitely mandatory ignition interlock <b>Vehicle:</b> Can be seized & forfeited <b>FELONY</b>
<b>First offense:</b> Fine up to \$2,500 <b>Repeated offenses:</b> Fine up to \$5,000	<b>Fine:</b> \$250 to \$2,500 <b>Jail:</b> Up to a year <b>Drivers License Suspension:</b> Up to one-year for purchasing for underage

# Impaired Driving Fact Sheet

- In the United States in 2008, 13,846 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes.
- On average, one person dies in an alcohol-related traffic crash every 40-minutes.
- On average, a person is injured in an alcohol-related traffic crash every two minutes.
- About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.
- The highest intoxication rates (.08+) in fatal crashes in 2008 were recorded for drivers 21-24 (34%) and 25-34 years old (31%) followed by ages 35-44 (25%).
- Alcohol is the single largest cause of fatal crashes. Alcohol related fatalities accounted for 32% of all highway fatalities in 2008.
- Approximately 1.43 million drivers were arrested in 2007 for driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. This is an arrest rate of one for every 144 licensed drivers in the United States.
- 29% of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had a BAC level of .08 g/dL or higher.

*Information provided by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*



# A High Price to Pay

In addition to the legal consequences of a DUI/DWI arrest, it will cost you personally, professionally and economically.

- You will pay \$5,000-\$20,000 for attorney fees, insurance rate increases, fines, towing, court costs and bonding fees.  
*(Information provided by Thomas Jefferson Community Criminal Justice Board.)*
- An average DUI/DWI arrest is financially equivalent to:
  - A downpayment on a house
  - A trip to Europe for two
  - 2,200 movie tickets
  - 200 romantic dinners for two
  - 8,000 cups of coffee
- When filling out a job application, you must say "YES" you have been convicted of a crime.
- Nine out of ten insurance companies will cancel your policy forcing you to find a high-risk insurance company, which increases your premiums by \$1,000-\$1,500 a year.
- While a DUI/DWI can be removed from your driving record, it stays on your criminal record for life.



# Tips for Safe Celebrating

- Always serve food with alcohol. High protein foods like meats and cheeses are especially good. They stay in the stomach longer, which slows the rate at which the body absorbs alcohol.
- If you serve an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base such as fruit juice. The body absorbs alcohol faster when mixed with carbonization.
- Serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option. It is possible that some of your guests may not want to drink alcohol.
- Establish guidelines such as:
  - designate a bartender (don't let guests mix their own drinks)
  - not serving anyone who appears to be impaired.
  - never serving minors.
  - closing the bar at least an hour before the end of the event.
  - offering free rides or cab fare to those who have had too much to drink.
- Implement a theme to your party so alcohol does not become the single focal point.
  - play non-drinking games to entertain your guests
- Happy Hour
  - always designate a driver
  - use alternative transportation
  - set a limit of drinks you will consume
  - never drink on an empty stomach

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Maryland Highway Safety Office/State Highway  
Administration  
Virginia Highway Safety Office/  
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

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