

Special Event Permit Kit



Thank you for helping your guests find a safe ride home

Drinking and driving remains one of the major causes of crashes in B.C.—but by working with event organizers, community groups, businesses, and people like you, we can all help prevent impaired driving crashes by having safe, fun and memorable events.

Our Special Event Permit Kit includes materials to help you prevent alcohol-related incidents at your event and improve crowd control.

Tips for a safe and enjoyable event

- Apply for a special event permit online at: specialevents.bcldb.com/.
- Hire a certified “Serving it Right” bartender. For more information visit www.servingitright.com.
- Talk to your site manager to choose the best place for the licensed area.
- Cordon off the licensed area with fencing; have a controlled entrance(s).
- Ask for two pieces of ID from any patron who appears to be under 19.
- Offer food services.
- Hire security.
- Remind your patrons/guests to make a smart choice by designating a driver before the first drinks are poured, OR set aside money for a cab or transit, stay overnight, hire a limo or use a shuttle service. Remember a true designated driver is a person who has no alcohol to drink.
- Reward designated drivers with free, non-alcoholic drinks.

Frequently asked questions

Can't people have a few drinks before they're impaired?

The risk of having a crash increases with each alcoholic drink consumed. Alcohol affects your driving in the following ways:

- judgment
- reaction time
- coordination
- visual function
- ability to steer, track moving objects, brake appropriately
- ability to control your speed and lane position.

What affects a person's blood alcohol content (BAC)?

Alcohol affects everyone differently, depending on a variety of factors:

- amount of alcohol consumed
- experience using alcohol
- rate of consumption—how quickly the alcohol is consumed, absorbed and eliminated
- body weight, gender, age
- fatigue
- medications or drugs—including prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and/or illegal drugs.

Doesn't food, coffee, exercise or a cold shower help?

No. Contrary to popular belief—food, coffee, a cold shower or exercise doesn't speed up the elimination of alcohol from your system. Only time can sober you up or lower your BAC.

Isn't alcohol a stimulant?

No. Alcohol is actually a depressant. Initially it causes a release of inhibitions which appears to stimulate the drinker.

What's an average drink?

A five-ounce glass of wine, a 12-ounce glass of beer or 1.5 ounces of hard liquor have the same effect on the body.

How can you tell if someone's intoxicated?

Sometimes it's hard to tell. Some of the signals are a release of inhibitions, slurred speech and/or loss of eye-hand coordination.

Doesn't someone have to blow .05 per cent or higher to be charged with drinking and driving?

No. Despite what most people think, blowing .05 or higher is only ONE of three ways you can be charged with impaired driving under the Criminal Code of Canada:

- a police officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe your ability to drive is impaired by drugs or alcohol (no matter what your BAC is)
- you're driving with a BAC over .05, or
- you refuse a test for alcohol.

Do tougher penalties start at .05 BAC?

Yes. B.C.'s laws include immediate roadside driving prohibitions, longer vehicle impoundments and higher financial penalties. You'll lose your driver's licence on the spot and can count on fines and penalties adding up to between \$600 and \$4,060, depending on your BAC and whether you've been caught before. While you're prohibited from driving, your vehicle may be impounded and you'll have to pay vehicle towing and storage fees to get your car back.

For more information on impaired driving penalties visit www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv.

Helping your guests find a safe ride home



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