

Unit Nine: Making Good Decisions

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**NOT DRINKING, NOT USING DRUGS,
NOT BEING DISTRACTED, & NOT
BEING AGGRESSIVE**



Objectives For Unit Nine

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What are some of the external factors that can affect a driver?

What are some of the penalties for DUI or DWI?

How should a driver avoid impaired driving?

Objectives For Unit Nine

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- Student will be able describe to the various personal factors such as distraction, fatigue, emotions, drugs and alcohol that impact driving.
- Students will be able to evaluate the impact of the various personal factors on safe and legal driving.
- Student will be able describe the various legal and administrative penalties associated with impaired driving.
- Students will develop strategies to avoid impaired or distracted driving.

Making The Good Decisions

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Who is an unsafe driver?

- Any driver who fails to make good decisions about any driving issue.

What is safe and legal driver?

- A driver who obeys the laws when law enforcement is around?
- A driver who obeys all traffic laws?
- A driver who focuses on the road and vehicles?
- A driver who consistently makes good decisions about what he/she is doing on the road?
- A driver who follows the law, minimizes distraction, and maintains constant awareness of the road, and makes good decisions about driving?






Making Good Decisions: Not Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol

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- **How does alcohol impact driving?**
- **What are the possible penalties for drinking and driving?**
- **What are the administrative and legal consequences for impaired driving?**






What Do You Know About DUI And Impaired Driving?

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- Alcohol is a drug. 
- Alcohol is a stimulant. 
- Even if I have been drinking alcohol, coffee, a cold shower, or a meal can sober me up. 
- Drivers under the age of 21 are allowed to have one drink. 
- Teens have higher crash rates on weekends and at night. 

What Do You Know About DUI And Impaired Driving?

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- Having friends in the car  will help you drive more safely when you are impaired.
- Using alcohol and other drugs while driving has no effect on brain activity. 
- Using alcohol and other drugs while driving has no impact on your perception of speed or distance. 
- Using alcohol or drugs while driving will make you feel more confident about your driving ability. 
- Using alcohol or drugs while driving can make you feel sleepy. 

Someone Like You

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VIDEO TO BE DISPLAYED
DURING CLASSROOM
INSTRUCTION.

Bad Decisions: Cost Of Alcohol Impaired Driving

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**Every Two
Minutes**



**500,000
crashes**



**150 deaths
& 6000
crashes**



\$32,000,000,000

Bad Decisions: What Is A Drink?

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12 fl oz of
regular beer

=

8–9 fl oz of
malt liquor
(shown in a
12 oz glass)

=

5 fl oz of
table wine

=

1.5 fl oz shot
of 80-proof
distilled spirits
(gin, rum, tequila,
vodka, whiskey, etc.)



about 5%
alcohol



about 7%
alcohol



about 12%
alcohol



40% alcohol

The percent of "pure" alcohol, expressed here as alcohol by volume (alc/vol), varies by beverage.

Bad Decision: How Much Alcohol Is Impairing?

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Consuming any alcohol may impair your ability to drive.

The amount of alcohol in your blood is called **BAC or **Blood Alcohol Concentration**.**

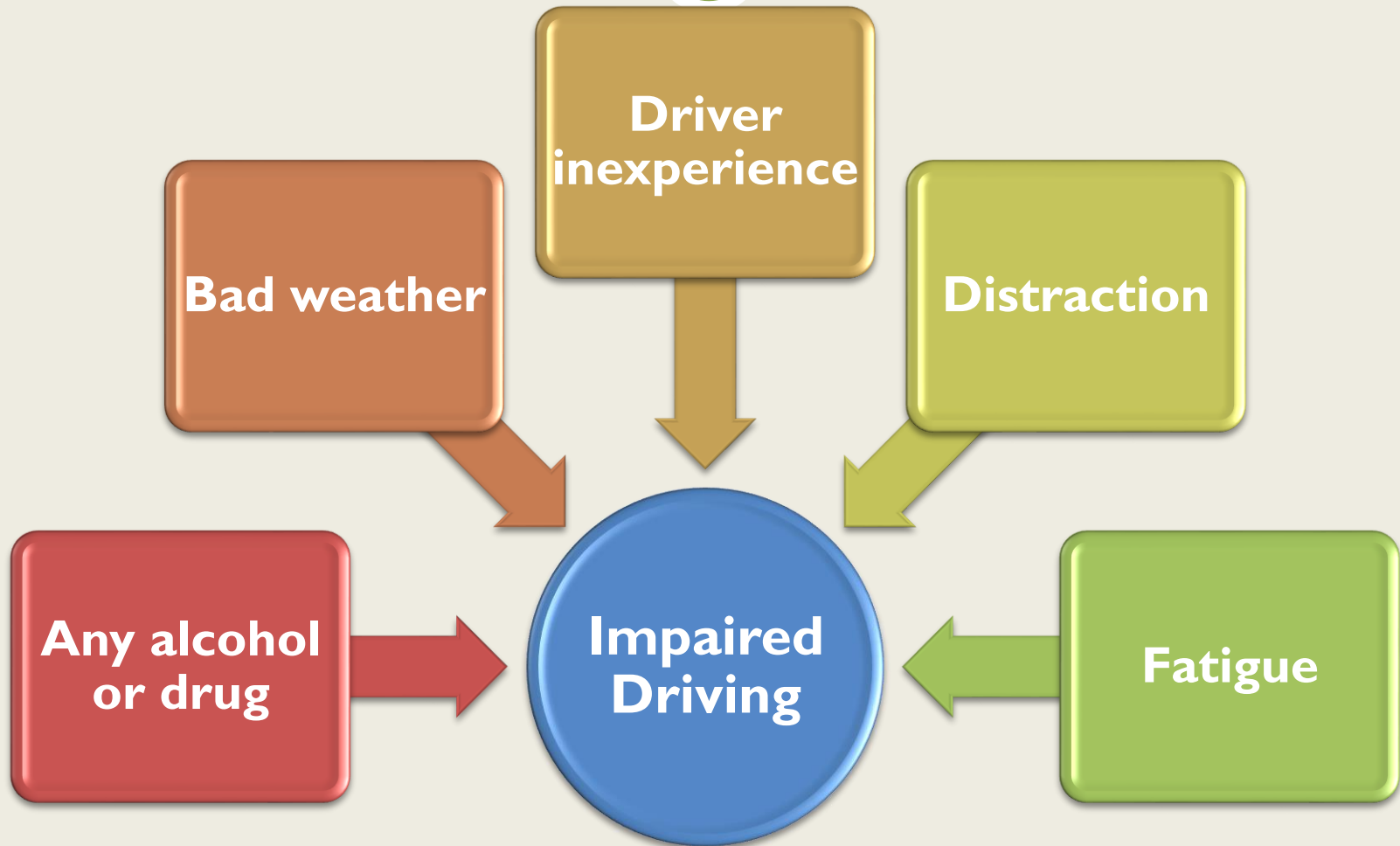
As you drink, alcohol enters your bloodstream.

The more you drink, the more alcohol in your blood.



Bad Decisions: Just One Drink Can't Hurt?

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Bad Decision: Zero Tolerance

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For drivers under 21, zero tolerance for alcohol.

**A quick fact to help you put things in perspective:
1 teaspoon of cough syrup = approximately BAC of 0.01**



So, even one drink, one sip, one swallow, one swig, one taste is illegal and can result in alcohol related charges.

Bad Decision: Open Container

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No one can have an open or unsealed container of alcohol inside the passenger area of any vehicle.



What is an open container?

Bad Decision: Trying To Monitor Your BAC

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You can't!

It is extremely difficult to assess your BAC

or

level of impairment.

Why?

Many factors, known and unknown
impact BAC.



Bad Decision: Refusing The Breath Test

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What if I don't want to take a breath test for alcohol?

Implied Consent means you will face stronger penalties for refusal.

?
?
?



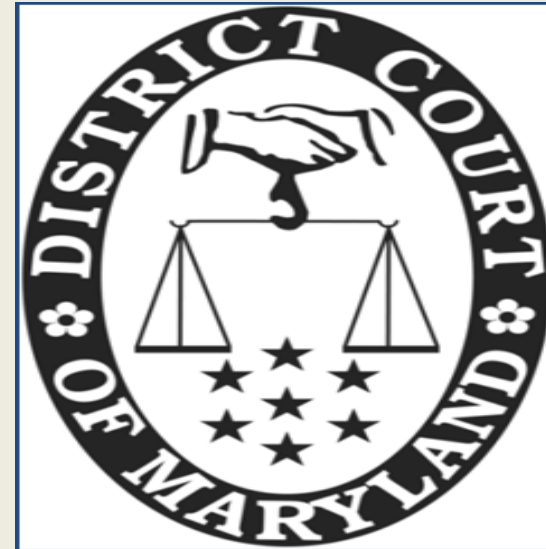
Results Of Bad Decisions: Penalties & Sanctions

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Administrative Sanctions



Criminal Penalties



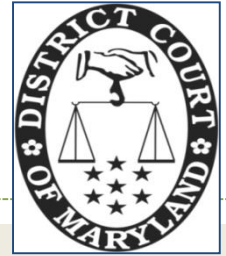
MVA Administrative Sanctions

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- **Confiscation of driver's license**
- **Suspension of driver's license (180 days up to 2 years)**
- **Revocation of driver's license (could be permanent)**
- **Mandatory driver improvement classes**
- **Mandatory alcohol & drug education**
- **Mandatory alcohol & drug treatment (inpatient may be required)**
- **Alcohol abstinence requirements**
- **Fees for hearing requests and license reinstatement**
- **Extension of provisional period for provisional license holders**
- **Seizure/impoundment of vehicle in cases involving illegal drugs**
- **Restrictions on driving AFTER the license is no longer suspended or revoked (could be for life)**
- **Ignition Interlock system installed in vehicle (up to 2 years)**

Alcohol charges stay on your driving record FOREVER.

Criminal Penalties



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- **Arrest**
- **Jail time (up to 1 year for a 1st offense; up to 4 years for subsequent offenses)**
- **Community Service**
- **Court-ordered alcohol/drug treatment**
- **Restitution**
- **Ignition Interlock**
- **Fines (\$1000 for 1st offense; much higher for subsequent offenses)**
- **Random drug & alcohol testing**
- **Harsher penalties for BAC of .15% or higher**
- **Harsher penalties for transporting a minor while driving impaired**



Other Consequences

- Loss of job/income
- Attorneys' fees
- Multiple court appearances
- Higher car insurance rates or cancelled insurance
- Towing & impound fees
- Disapproval and anger from friends and family



Good Decisions

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IF YOU PLAN TO DRINK, PLAN NOT TO DRIVE

- **Make a good decision to not drink if you are under 21.**
- **Make a plan *BEFORE* you leave the house.**
- **Make a contract with a responsible person before you leave home.**
- **Give someone you trust the honor of being your sober driver.**
- **Call a cab or Uber it.**

Bad Decisions: Drugs And Driving

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Drugs that affect your ability to drive may be

LEGAL Or **ILLEGAL.**



Bad Decisions: Drugs And Driving

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- Legal drugs include prescription and over the counter medications.
- While legal, they may still cause driving impairment.



Be sure to read the warning labels for all drugs.

Bad Decisions: Marijuana and Driving

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Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia currently have laws legalizing marijuana in some form.

Does that mean the smoking marijuana and driving is legal?

No!

How much is illegal to consume and drive?

Any.



Marijuana And Driving

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How does marijuana impact driving?

- **Coordination**
- **Concentration**
- **Cognition**
- **Balance**



According to a recent study by the University of Colorado, even at low levels, marijuana significantly increased weaving from lane to lane.

Bad Decision: Aggressive Driving

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What is aggressive driving?

- Legal Definition - Committing any three moving violations simultaneously
 - Running red lights
 - Tailgating other drivers
 - Speeding
 - Frequent lane changes
- Are there any other kinds of aggressive driving?

Bad Decisions: Aggressive Driving

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- Do you know anyone who complains to themselves or their passengers about other drivers?
- Do you know anyone who gets annoyed or angered by other drivers?
- Do you know anyone who is frustrated in congested traffic?
- Do you know anyone who drives like they are in a hurry, leaving other slower drivers behind?
- Do you know anyone who ever honks at drivers who upset you?
- Do you know anyone who ever tailgates slower drivers who refuse to move over?
- Do you know anyone who ever yells or gestures at other drivers?
- Do you know anyone who ever breaks speed limits?
- Do you know anyone who ever goes through red lights?

If you or a driver you know displays any three of these behaviors on a daily basis, you know an aggressive driver.

Bad Decisions: Reckless Driving

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VIDEO TO BE DISPLAYED
DURING CLASSROOM
INSTRUCTION.

Bad Decisions: Fatigued Driving

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- **Fatigued driving is common when driving when on expressways.**
- **Results from driving long distances without breaks or changes in scenery.**
- **According to AAA Safety Foundation, almost 40% of drivers admit to having fallen asleep when driving during their driving career.**



Over 300,000 crashes annually

Bad Decisions: Drowsy Driving

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- 1) Everybody  has a "biological clock."
- 2) Drinking coffee  cures drowsiness while driving.
- 3) I can tell when  I'm going to fall asleep.
- 4) I'm a safe driver so  it doesn't matter if I'm sleepy.
- 5) Nearly everyone  gets enough sleep.
- 6) Being sleepy makes  you misperceive things.
- 7) Young people  need less sleep.
- 8) If I sleep a lot now,  I won't need to sleep as much later.

Avoiding Fatigue

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How can a driver avoid fatigued driving?



Sleep!

Rusty's Regret

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**VIDEO TO BE DISPLAYED
DURING CLASSROOM
INSTRUCTION.**

Bad Decision: Distracted Driving

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What does Maryland Law say about electronic distraction and driving?

- For a learner's permit driver – cell phone use and texting are not allowed except for 911
- For a provisional driver – cell phone use and texting are not allowed except for 911

Does that matter?

Open Letter to New Drivers (Though written to new drivers, it applies to all drivers):

I am Richard Leotta, the father of Officer Noah Leotta who died in the line of duty on December 10, 2015 at the hands of a drunk driver, and was reborn with the signing of Noah's Law on May 19, 2016. Among other things, Noah's Law primarily strengthened Maryland's drunk driving laws with increased suspension times for drunk drivers, and mandatory use of ignition interlock devices for all convicted drunk drivers. This law goes into effect on October 1, 2016 and will make a difference and save lives. However, this law only goes so far. You are the real answer for preventing the deadly impact of drunk driving on our roadways.

First, I would like to congratulate you on taking the important steps of earning the right to drive through class room learning and various road training skills and exercises. Driving is a very serious responsibility. Driving in and of itself is inherently dangerous, as there are so many things that can go wrong while driving. To avoid these dangers, you need to be a defensive driver. That means you must be fully alert and present when you drive with all of your senses and reaction times fully functional, as split seconds can mean life and death. Furthermore, the faster the speed of the cars, the worse the road conditions, the darkness of night, the various alertness and condition of the other drivers on the road, plus many other unforeseen risks and dangers, all contribute to increased possibilities of accidents. Even with all the safety features that have been added to cars in recent years, fatalities on US roadways are on the rise. What is shocking is that, one-third of these fatalities are attributed to drunk driving. Drunk driving is not an accident. An accident is not preventable. However, drunk driving is preventable and the outcome is predictable.

Officer Noah Leotta was keenly aware of the problems of drunk driving and the deadly results on our roadways. In fact, on the night of December 3, 2015 he was trying to protect us from drunk drivers. However, sadly that night, my son, 24-year-old Officer Noah Leotta became the face of the senseless and tragic victims of drunk drivers, when he was struck by a drunk driver while making a roadside stop, and died from his injuries a week later. The result of this and many other reckless and irresponsible drunk drivers are the shattered lives they leave behind. We, survivors, family members, and friends of the victims of drunk drivers, suffer through pain, anguish, grief and despair without relief in sight. Our hearts will never mend and our tears forever flow.

Therefore, do not be a perpetrator of drunk driving, and by not drinking and driving you will help reduce fatalities and injuries on US roadways. Be a responsible and safe driver. Always make a plan and take a safe and sober ride home. Please, don't drink and drive, for your sake and the sake of others.

**Sincerely,
Richard Leotta**

END OF UNIT NINE