

WHAT IS A SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT?



Today you were stopped as part of an effort to make our communities safer. This checkpoint is set up to detect impaired drivers before they can hurt themselves or someone else and to educate the public about the dangers of driving while impaired.

At sobriety checkpoints, law enforcement officers evaluate drivers for indications of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Signs clearly mark the upcoming checkpoint well in advance and vehicles are stopped in a predetermined sequence, such as every vehicle or every third vehicle. A well conducted checkpoint should not delay motorists any more than a stop at a typical red light.

Tell everyone you know that we are cracking down on impaired driving in Maine, because we want everyone on our roadways to be safe.

Sobriety checkpoints have proven to be effective in reducing the rate of impaired driving crashes and in making people think twice about driving while impaired.



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MAINE IMPAIRED DRIVING QUICK FACTS

In Maine alcohol/drug related crashes account for 31% of all fatal crashes. The two most common drugs found in the blood of suspected OUI defendants are alcohol and cannabis.

Regarding alcohol, a driver with a blood/breath alcohol content (BAC) is .08 is operating under the influence. Additionally, there is a zero tolerance BAC (0.00) for drivers under 21. Cannabis (or other non-alcohol drugs) doesn't have a "BAC", but studies have shown that cannabis can impair a person's ability to drive safely. To help detect impairment by cannabis or other drugs, Maine has specially trained Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) officers.

Alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs can delay driver reaction time, impair vision, slow down drivers' information processing, and weaken a person's judgement. All of this can happen even if you don't feel intoxicated.

