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A costly night out

June 26, 2004

Potential costs of a first-time drunken-driving conviction in Colorado.

- Car towing.....\$65
- Daily car storage fee.....\$20
- Bail fee (15% under \$10,000 — minimum bond \$1,000).....\$150
- Jail filing fees.....\$10
- Defense attorney's fee.....\$2,500
- Minimum fine.....\$300
- Victim assistance fund.....\$60
- Victim compensation fund.....\$60
- Law enforcement assistance fund.....\$90
- Alcohol evaluation.....\$181
- Restitution cost for chemical testing.....\$30
- Probation supervision fee.....\$600
- Community service supervision.....\$60
- License reinstatement.....\$60
- Driver's license retesting and new license.....\$25.60
- Brain injury surcharge.....\$15
- Court cost.....\$21
- Alcohol education classes/treatment.....\$425
- Victim impact panel assessment (if ordered).....\$25
- Auto insurance increase.....\$4,800

Total: \$9,497.60

• The risk of a driver being killed in a crash at .08 BAC is at least 11 times that of drivers without alcohol in their system. At .10 BAC, the risk is at least 29 times higher. (Zador, Krawchuk and Voas,

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2000)


- If every state passed a .08 BAC law, 400 to 600 lives would be saved each year. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2001)
- Although the outward appearances vary, virtually all drivers are substantially impaired at .08 BAC. Laboratory and on-road research shows that the vast majority of drivers, even experienced drivers, are significantly impaired at .08 with regard to critical driving tasks such as braking, steering, lane changing, judgment and divided attention. (NHTSA, 2003)
- While there is no "safe" amount of alcohol for drivers, most people can drink moderately and drive legally when the illegal per se limit is set at .08. A 170-pound male typically would have to consume more than four drinks in one hour on an empty stomach to reach a BAC of .08. A 137-pound female typically would have to consume three drinks in the same time frame. (NHTSA, 2003)*Information Compiled By Colorado Department Of Transportation From Data Provided By: Alcohol And Drug Abuse Division, Colorado Department Of Human Services; Colorado Criminal Defense Bar; Colorado District Attorneys Council; Colorado Judicial Department; Motor Vehicle Division, Colorado Department of Revenue; and Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association*

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