Lesson 14

Objective: To understand the dangers of driving while under the influence.

Points to ponder:

1. What are some consequences of driving while under the influence?
2. What are some things that are considered substances that can cause you to be under the influence?
3. Is it easy to determine when a person is under the influence?
4. Is driving under the influence ever acceptable?

Lesson:

**ALCOHOL:**

Drunk drivers cause more than half the fatal crashes

If you have even one drink, you are 7 times greater to be involved in a crash

More than 25,000 people die each year in drinking related accidents in the US.

Alcohol slows you down ; it does not pep you up like most people think.

It does not matter if you are drinking beer, wine, or hard liquor, it is the amount that counts as it enters the blood stream.

Drinking on an empty stomach will affect the body faster than drinking after eating

After drinking only TIME will sober you up. Coffee, food, cold air, fresh air, may wake you up; but will not sober you up.

Alcohol is eliminated through your liver, kidneys, lungs and breath. It takes about an hour to get rid of each ounce of alcohol.

Weight is a huge factor that will determine when you become an unsafe driver after consuming alcohol. However, no matter if you are heavy or thin, moderation and caution should be used when drinking alcohol. It is a dangerous drug.

BAC(blood alcohol content) - the ratio of alcohol to blood present in the bloodstream at any given time.

In NH and all 50 states, a BAC of .08 if over 21 is evidence of legal intoxication. A BAC of .o2 if under 21 is evidence of legal intoxication.

The safest rule is, if you have been drinking, do not drive and do not drink if you are going to drive, have someone else drive for you.

You must be 21 to legally purchase and consume alcohol. It is illegal to provide persons under 21 with alcoholic beverages.

No one under 21, unless accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or legal age spouse, shall transport alcohol in any part of a vehicle. You license may be suspended for 60 days for any driver in violation of this.

NO DRIVER shall transport, carry, possess any alcoholic beverages in the passenger area of any vehicle unless in original container and unbroken seal. If in a container or seal broken, it must be stored in the trunk or if no trunk, least accessible area to the driver.

Exceptions apply to chartered bus, taxi and limousine for hire if ok with the carrier. NO alcohol can be present in driver’s area.

Implied Consent means that any person who drives a motor vehicle has consented to having their blood, breath or urine, or any combination, tested if arrested for alcohol or drug offense.

If you refuse you will lose driving privileges for 180 days. However if prior refusal or prior conviction in the past 10 year, s it will be 2 years.

If you submit to sobriety tests and are 21 or over, you will lose license for 6 months if 21 or older. However, if you had a prior refusal or conviction in past 10 years, it shall be 2 years.

Penalties for driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs:

Fines

Loss of license

Jail sentence

Complete state approved alcohol program

Proof of insurance in the form of SR22 certificate

Court may order installation of ignition interlock device

**DRUGS:**

Almost any drug can affect your driving skills. Here are a few things to remember:

1. Most drugs that you take can make you drowsy and affect your driving ability.
2. When taking prescription medicine, ask doctor of possible side effects if you drive.
3. “pep pills” make you alert for short period of time, but make you nervous and dizzy, and not able to concentrate. They also affect your vision.
4. Tranquilizers or sedatives make you drowsy and make driving dangerous.
5. Smoking marijuana causes a person to have trouble adjusting to light and glare.
6. LSD and heroin make people unaware of surroundings and unable to drive safely.
7. Drugs and alcohol should not be use together.
8. Read labels on all drugs so you are aware of all possible side effects.

If convicted of operating a motor vehicle while in possession of a controlled drug, he/she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and lose license for 60 days to 2 years

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