Idaho’s 0.08% BAC Law

Remember . . . it is illegal to drive in Idaho with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.08% or more (and just 0.02% for drivers under 21). At 0.08% BAC you might not notice any visible signs. While some people might be able to cover the outward signs, no one—no matter what they say – can change the body’s reaction to alcohol. At just 0.05% BAC, reflex time and depth perception can be impaired. At 0.08% BAC, even “experienced” drinkers show driving skill impairment. So watch how much you drink. And how much your friends drink.

How can YOU avoid DUI?

The best way to avoid a DUI is to not drink and drive. If you are with a group, designate a sober driver, take a taxi, or make arrangements before you go out drinking to have someone drive you home.

How can you spot a DUI driver?

♦ Wide turns
♦ Crossing lines
♦ Weaving or swerving
♦ Stopping without cause
♦ Driving very fast or slow
♦ Slow response to traffic signals

The more of these signs the driver displays, the greater the chance that the driver is under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

What can YOU do?

You can report the DUI driver by calling the REDDI (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately) toll free number, 1-800-233-1212, or cellular *ISP.

What information do you need to report?

♦ Location
♦ Direction of travel
♦ Vehicle description
♦ License plate number
♦ Number of people in vehicle
You Deserve a Safe Highway

As public attitudes have changed, the percentage of alcohol-related collisions has decreased. But, impaired driving still takes far too great a human and economic toll.

Over 39% of Idaho's fatal collisions are caused by people driving under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs. In Idaho, it is illegal to drive under the influence of drugs or with a breath alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08% or more, and 0.02% or greater if you are under 21. It is also illegal to operate a commercial vehicle with a BAC level of 0.04% or more.

How Idaho’s DUI Laws Work

Idaho law enforcement officers are trained to detect a person driving under the influence (DUI). Each year, over 10,000 drivers are arrested in Idaho for DUI. If you drive under the influence, the chances are you will be arrested. If the police officer has cause to believe that you are driving under the influence, you will be asked to take a BAC test.

Under Idaho law, if you refuse, your driver's license will be taken away and your driving privileges will be suspended for 1 year along with a $250 civil penalty. If the officer suspects you are using drugs, he can request an additional test to determine drug use.

Enhanced Penalties for BAC Levels of 0.20% or Greater

The FIRST DUI

- Misdemeanor violation
- Jail: 10 days mandatory, up to 1 year
- Fines: up to $2,000
- License suspension: 1 year mandatory after release from confinement with no driving privileges of any kind
- Ignition interlock mandatory

First Offense

- Misdemeanor violation
- Jail: 10 days mandatory, up to 1 year
- Fines: up to $2,000
- License suspension: 1 year mandatory after release from confinement with no driving privileges of any kind

Second Offense within 5 Years

- Felony violation
- Jail: mandatory 30 days in the county jail, or up to 5 years in the state penitentiary
- Fines: up to $5,000
- License suspension: up to 5 years, 1 year mandatory after release from confinement with no driving privileges of any kind
- Ignition interlock mandatory

Aggravated DUI

It is a felony to cause serious injury to another person while driving under the influence. Jail time, fines and driving suspension are enhanced.

The SECOND DUI within 10 Years

- Misdemeanor violation
- Jail: 10 days mandatory, up to 1 year
- Fines: up to $2,000
- License suspension: 1 year mandatory after release from confinement with no driving privileges of any kind
- Ignition interlock mandatory

What YOU should know about Idaho’s Repeat DUI Offender Law (Idaho Code 18-8008)

As a weapon against the dangers of repeat drunk drivers Idaho requires the installation of a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) on any vehicle a repeat DUI offender drives. This device requires a breath sample and if alcohol is detected the car will not start.