

The "C-Change" Initiative:

1. Change behaviors.
2. Challenge ourselves to re-think how we work.
3. Certify the results on a daily basis.



## ***Toolbox Talk***

*Week of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

### ***Drug and Alcohol Awareness***

March is being recognized as Drug and Alcohol Awareness Month at JJ White. Following the same philosophy as we did in February, with Home Safety Month, we will take the next few weeks to educate our workforce and the common issues and consequences that are a result of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. This information is relevant to our employees both on and off of the job. Again, this is great information to take home and share with your families.

Alcohol played a role in nearly 40% of U.S. automobile fatalities in 2005. That's 16,885 deaths, a figure nearly unchanged over the past decade, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The last of the 50 states have lowered their thresholds for DUI to 0.08% blood-alcohol content. Police arrested 1.37 million people last year for driving under alcohol's grip, about one in every 140 licensed drivers, the FBI says.

If risking your life isn't enough and you need any more reasons not to drink and drive, consider this: A driving-under-the-influence conviction is a financial wrecking ball. A typical DUI costs about \$10,000 by the time you pay bail, fines, fees and insurance, even if you didn't hit anything or hurt anybody.

**Bail:** You'll have to shell out bail to get released after your arrest. **Cost: \$150-\$2,500.**

**Towing:** When you're arrested, your car gets towed. In some places, retrieving it costs only \$100 or so.

**Insurance:** One of the biggest hits a drunken driver takes is in his/her insurance premiums. If you get a DUI conviction, it will likely affect your insurance rates for (at least) the next three to five years. They could double, triple, even quadruple.

**Legal fees:** Attorneys might charge as little as \$500 to enter a quick plea. But with so much at stake, many people accused of DUI fight the charge. That's when things start to add up.

**Fines:** Fines and court fees for breaking the law range from state to state, from a minimum of \$300 in Colorado and \$685 in Washington to as much as \$1,200 in Illinois.

**Alcohol education and treatment:** If you're convicted, you usually have to undergo an education or treatment program, especially if you want to get your license again. Treatment can vary hugely in scope and extent. **Cost: \$350-\$2,000 for basic treatment.**

**License reinstatement fees:** Once a driver has shown, by completing courses and treatment, that he/she deserves their license back, the state charges them for the reissue. **Cost: \$60-\$250.**

**Additional fees:** Colorado, for example, will slap you with myriad other fees:

- \$10 jail filing fee.
- \$78 Victim Assistance Fund payment.
- \$25 Victim Compensation Fund payment.
- \$90 for the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund.
- \$15 Brain Injury surcharge.
- \$25 Victim Impact Panel assessment.

If you had been particularly drunk, a judge might order that an ignition lock be placed on your car to test your breath and prevent your car from starting if you're intoxicated. In Tennessee, for example, this costs \$65-\$70 a month. **Cost: \$308 and up.**

On top of all of that, there are several other costs that you need to remember:

- **Life-insurance-premium increases.** With a DUI arrest or conviction, you could see an increase in your life-insurance bills because insurers may ask if your license has ever been suspended.
- **Lost time = lost money.** People who've gotten DUIs report missing a lot of work (and therefore losing a lot of income) dealing with their mistake, as a result of court dates, community service and sometimes a jail sentence. That doesn't even count the lost free time.
- **Lose the license? Lose the job.** For many people who need to drive to and from their jobs -- much less those who drive for their jobs -- losing a license can be devastating. And here's a shocker: In several states, including Washington, your license may be suspended for 90 days simply upon your arrest for DUI, regardless of whether you end up being convicted. If you're convicted, your license can be revoked for a year, or longer in other states, until you complete all the court's requirements and pay all fines.
- **No drunks in the cockpit or the ER.** If you're a doctor, stockbroker, airline pilot, lawyer or nurse, a DUI conviction could affect the status of your professional license.
- **It's not good for the résumé.** A DUI lingers on your criminal record for employers to see if they do a background check, harming your future job prospects. In Washington State, a DUI conviction also stays on your driving record for 14 years, and an employer can ask for and receive that information.

Some more statistics from MADD:

- About three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.
- In 2002, surveys estimates that Americans took over 159 million alcohol-impaired driving trips, compared with only 116 million in 1997.
- In 2002, 2.3% of Americans 18 and older surveyed reported alcohol-impaired driving, including 3% of 18-20 year olds and 4.1% of 21-34 year olds.
- On average someone is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes. In 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in drunk driving related crashes—a decline of 9.8 percent from the 13,041 drunk driving related fatalities of 2007.
- 50 to 75 percent of drunk drivers whose licenses are suspended continue to drive.

## **IS DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE WORTH IT?**

\*\*\*Sources: Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Mothers Against Drunk Driving\*\*\*