

## New Consequences for Drinking Drivers

As of February 1, 2009, convicted drinking drivers and those who receive multiple 24-hour or Administrative Driving Prohibitions in BC face new consequences. They will be required to have an ignition interlock installed in their vehicle **and** must attend the *Responsible Driver Program* – all at their own expense (total cost about \$2,500).



### The facts

This program requires that drivers participate in the *Responsible Driver Program* **and** be monitored with an ignition interlock in their vehicle **for a year** if they get:

- An alcohol-related *Criminal Code* or *Motor Vehicle Act* conviction
- Three 24-hour prohibitions within 5 years
- Two Administrative Driving Prohibitions (ADP) within 5 years

The more convictions and prohibitions drivers get the longer they will be monitored.

### The Responsible Driver Program

Drivers will be referred for either 8 hours of education or 16 hours of counselling (usually over a 3-month period). If they are referred to the counselling stream, there may be up to a **6-month waiting period** between the initial screening and the follow-up assessment to give them time to prove that they've made changes in their life.

**Cost to the driver..... \$880**

### Ignition Interlock

An in-car alcohol breath screening device will be installed in the driver's car for at least one year – at their own expense. Before they can start their vehicle, they must blow into the device. It prevents their vehicle from starting if alcohol is present in their system. Once they're driving, they have to blow at random intervals to prove that they are still sober. The information is recorded and every 1 to 2 months they have to go to the interlock installation centre so that the information can be downloaded. If it shows they have had alcohol in their system when they have blown into the device, their time with the ignition interlock may be extended (at their expense).

**Cost to the driver..... about \$1600/year**

**TOTAL cost to the driver ..... about \$2500/year**

If drivers have to drive another vehicle for work or want to drive their recreational vehicle, they need to have an ignition interlock installed on that vehicle, too.

**Cost to the driver..... about \$1600 more/year**

### For more information

Visit the Office of Superintendent of Motor Vehicles website at [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv)

Fact sheets on this program and other programs for drinking drivers can be found on the Publications page.