



ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE

DRINKING & DRIVING The Facts



Honiara City Council



ALCOHOL AND DRIVING

Alcohol is a leading factor in the number of crashes where people die or are seriously injured on Solomon Islands roads.

The Royal Solomon Islands Police and the Honiara City want you and your family to be safe while travelling in your vehicle.

The information in this brochure is not only for drivers of vehicles, but for family and friends of people who drive after drinking. Road Safety is EVERYONE's business, so please take the time to read these messages and reduce the risk of you or someone you love being hurt or killed on the roads because of the actions of a drunk driver.

THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Even a small amount of alcohol effects your ability to drive and increases your risk of being in a serious road crash. Alcohol will;

- reduce your ability to do more than one thing at a time
- make it more difficult to concentrate on driving
- slow down your reaction times (such as braking for another vehicle or a child on the road)
- make you over-confident and more likely to speed and take risks
- make simple tasks more difficult
- reduce your ability to hear and see clearly
- makes you more likely to fall asleep

IMPACTING FACTORS ON CONCENTRATION OF ALCOHOL

There are a lot of factors that affect the concentration of alcohol in your blood;

- how much you have had to drink and how quickly you have been drinking
- the type of alcohol
- how much you weigh and when you last ate
- your general health, gender and mood

Drinking coffee or water, having some food, a swim, or vomiting, does not reduce the alcohol concentration in your blood or make you 'sober up' faster. Time is the only thing that will reduce the effects of alcohol.

Depending on your alcohol concentration, you may not even be safe to drive in the morning after a sleep. If you have any doubts at all, don't drive – it's not worth the risk.



POLICE POWERS

In order to help keep the roads a safe place for you and your family, the Police have the power to;

- Stop and detail any vehicle and driver to test for alcohol impairment
- Arrest a driver or person in charge of a motor vehicle who is suspected of being unfit to drive as a result of alcohol or drugs
- Impound the vehicle.



OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

The offence of 'Drinking or being in charge, when under the influence of drink or drugs' carries the following penalties;

- May be disqualified from driving for up to 3 years
- Up to a \$2000 fine and/or
- A maximum of 2 years imprisonment

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

- Drinking and driving don't mix
- Don't let friends or family drive drunk
- Keep safe, never get into a car with a drunk driver
 - Have a sober driver or use a taxi or bus

DRINK, DRIVING, IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK!

GET HOME SAFELY

Think ahead and if you are planning to drink alcohol then DON'T drive. Make other arrangements such as;

- Arrange for a friend to be the sober driver (take turns with friends and be the sober driver another time)
- Get a ride with someone else
- Arrange for someone to drop you off and pick you up
- Use a taxi, bus or other public transport
- Stay the night at a friend's house



This information is brought to you by the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and the Honiara City Council – working in partnership to keep the roads of Honiara safe for the community.

For more information contact:

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
Traffic Department
PO Box G3
Rove Police Headquarters
Honiara.

Tel: 23800 Ext. 218 or 28275