

Feature Police R.I.D.E. program

The onset of the Christmas season also signals the beginning of the Halton Regional Police Service's Christmas R.I.D.E. Program.

R.I.D.E. is a drinking driving countermeasure that is aimed at deterring the large sector of the population who are potential drinking drivers, as well as detecting and apprehending drinking drivers who are already on the road before they have an accident. To achieve these aims, it is necessary to increase not only the actual chance of being caught, but also peoples' belief that they will, in fact, be caught if they drink and drive.

The major obstacle in the path of efficient enforcement of drinking driving offences is the fact that detection of the drinking driver is really a chance event. Detection is such that only the worst cases are likely to come to the attention of the police. In general, drinking drivers are stopped because of some abnormal drinking behaviour or involvement in an accident, yet other drinking drivers, potentially just as dangerous, are disregarded because they do not conform to this pattern. Thus, the need for rotation of spot checks such as R.I.D.E.

The program is based on the concept of general deterrence and involves two components, enforcement (by means of random spot checks and roadside breath-testing) and education. It is not the goal of the program to produce a massive increase in the arrest rate. Rather, it is felt that it is more beneficial to contact as many motorists as possible, so that a large sector of these potential drinking drivers might be deterred from combining these two activities in the future. The program makes them aware of the offences in addition to impaired driving such as: Impaired Driving causing bodily harm, Impaired Driving causing death, driving a motor vehicle with more than 80 mgs., refuse to accompany a Police Officer for test, refuse roadside test and refuse breathalyzer test.

R.I.D.E. has since been adopted by most Ontario Police Services and operates year round with special emphasis on the Christmas Season and holiday weekends.

CHRISTMAS R.I.D.E.

SPOTCHECK NUMBERS

This year, the Halton Regional Police Services plan to stop 20,000 vehicles at R.I.D.E. Spotchecks this Christmas season.

The spotchecks will be conducted in every town, every night.

1989 Christmas R.I.D.E.

| Spotchecks | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| District 1 (Halton Hills) | |
| Vehicles Stopped: | 5809 |
| 12 Hour Suspension: | 8 |
| Drink and Drive Charges: | 5 |
| District 2 (Oakville) | |
| Vehicles Stopped: | 2241 |
| 12 Hour Suspension: | 12 |
| Drink and Drive Charges: | 5 |
| District 3 (Burlington) | |
| Vehicles Stopped: | 9169 |
| 12 Hour Suspension: | 20 |
| Drink and Drive Charges: | 6 |
| TOTALS | |
| Vehicles Stopped: | 17,219 |
| 12 Hour Suspensions: | 40 |
| Drink and Drive Charges: | 16 |

PROCEDURE AT R.I.D.E.

CHECKPOINTS

1. Motorist Stops. Officer explains purpose of stop and asks motorist if he/she has "had any alcoholic beverages to drink prior to driving. The Officer checks to make sure the occupants have their seatbelts on.

2. If motorist says "NO" and Officer doesn't smell alcohol, the motorist will be thanked for stopping and given a "SPOTCHECKS" Coupon Book.

3. If motorist says "YES" or Officer smells alcohol on driver's breath, the Officer will ask the driver to step from the car and will demand that the driver blow into a roadside testing device.

4. Driver can at this point

choose to:

a) Blow into the machine, or,
b) Refuse to blow into the machine.

If he refuses, the driver will be charged with refusing to provide a breath sample, and will be released with a court date. His or hers driver's license will be suspended for 12 hours, and the car will be impounded or can be driven by a sober friend.

5. If the driver blows into the machine, the test will result in:

PASS - Driver is free to go on his way.

WARN - Blood/Alcohol is between 50-100 mg./100 ml. blood. Driver's licence is suspended for 12 hours, no charges laid.

FAIL - Driver is taken into custody for a Breathalyser Test at the station. His car is impounded. If the Breathalyser confirms the drivers blood/alcohol is over 80 mg./100 ml. blood, the driver is charged criminally with a Drinking and Driving Offence.

THANKYOU R.I.D.E.

SPOT CHECKS

As a thankyou gesture to motorists who don't drink and drive, a coupon booklet will be handed out to drivers stopped at all R.I.D.E. checkpoints.

The coupons offer valuable discounts on various products and services.

Sponsors of the R.I.D.E. spot checks program have generated \$350,000 toward the \$5.7 million sunshine pool at Variety Village.

"TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY"

As part of the P.R.I.D.E./M.A.D.D. (PRIDE - Parents Reducing Impaired Driving Everywhere - MADD - Mothers Against Drinking and Driving) organizations public awareness campaign "tie one on for safety", members of the public are invited to display red ribbon-bows on the rear view mirrors of their cars. These bows will be displayed on Halton Police Service cruisers, and can be picked up at Shoppers Drug Mart stores or Allstate Insurance Agents.

OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT WHILE IMPAIRED OR WITH MORE THAN 80 MG ALCOHOL IN BLOOD.

253. Every one commits an offence who operates a motor vehicle or vessel or operates or assists in the operation of an aircraft or has the care or control of a motor vehicle, vessel or aircraft whether it is in motion or not,

a) while his ability to operate the vehicle, vessel or aircraft is impaired by alcohol or a drug; or

b) having consumed alcohol in such a quantity that the concentration thereof in his blood exceeds eighty milligrams of alcohol in one hundred millilitres of blood. R.S.C. 1985, c. 27 (1st Supp.) s. 36.

PUNISHMENT - Impaired driving causing bodily harm - Impaired driving causing death - Previous convictions - Conditional discharge.

255. (1) Every one who commits an offence under section 253 or 254 is guilty of an indictable offence or an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable,

(a) whether the offence is prosecuted by indictment or punishable on summary conviction, to the following minimum punishment, namely,

(i) for a first offence, to a fine of not less than three hundred dollars,

(ii) for a second offence, to imprisonment for a term not less than fourteen days, and

(iii) for each subsequent offence, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding not less than ninety days;

(b) where the offence is prosecuted by indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years; and

(c) where the offence is punishable on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term

not exceeding six months.

(2) Every one who commits an offence under paragraph 253(a) and thereby causes bodily harm to any other person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

(3) Every one who commits an offence under paragraph 253(a) and thereby causes the death of any other person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

(4) Where a person is convicted of an offence committed under paragraph 253(a) or (b) or subsection 254(5), that person shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be convicted for a second or subsequent offence, as the case may be, if the person has previously been convicted of

(a) an offence committed under any of those provisions;

(b) an offence under subsection (2) or (3); or

(c) an offence under section 250, 252, 252.2, 253, 259 or 260 or subsection 258(4) of this Act as this Act read immediately before the coming into force of this subsection.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection 736(1), a court may, instead of convicting a person of an offence committed under section 253, after hearing medical or other evidence, if it considers that the person is in need of curative treatment in relation to his consumption of alcohol or drugs and that it would not be contrary to the public interest, by order direct that the person be discharged under section 736 on the conditions prescribed in a probation order, including a condition respecting the person's attendance for curative treatment in relation to that consumption of alcohol or drugs. R.S.C. 1985, c. 27 (1st Supp.) s. 36.

STATISTICS AND TRENDS IN DRINKING AND DRIVING

The information below comes from a number of sources including the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, Transport Canada, Statistics Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. Information is based on 1987 statistics, the latest year for which data is available. Figures reflect national trends, except as noted.

- Drinking drivers are involved in approximately 5 per cent of all reportable (over \$700 damage) traffic crashes.

- Drinking drivers account for about 27 per cent of fatal crashes.

- According to data from seven provinces for the years 1980-1985, December, January, and February have the lowest totals of drinking related crashes, followed by March, April and November (study conducted by TIRF).

- May through October have the highest drinking driving accident rates (about 65 per cent of annual total).

- August averaged twice as many impaired driver fatalities as December (based on seven-province, six-year study by TIRF).

- 43 per cent of fatally-injured drivers were impaired by alcohol.

- Young men aged 25 to 34 accounted for the largest percentage of impaired drivers (36 per cent); the next largest group is young men aged 16 to 24 years old (31 per cent) and then men 35 to 44 years old (18 per cent).

- Most accidents occur in daylight (66 per cent) and fatal accidents occur almost equally in daylight (49 per cent) or darkness (51 per cent). However, most single car crashes, which are statistically most likely to involve an impaired driver, occur in darkness.

- Friday between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. accounts for 66 per cent of all accidents; more than half of fatal accidents (52 per cent) take place between Thursday and Sunday.

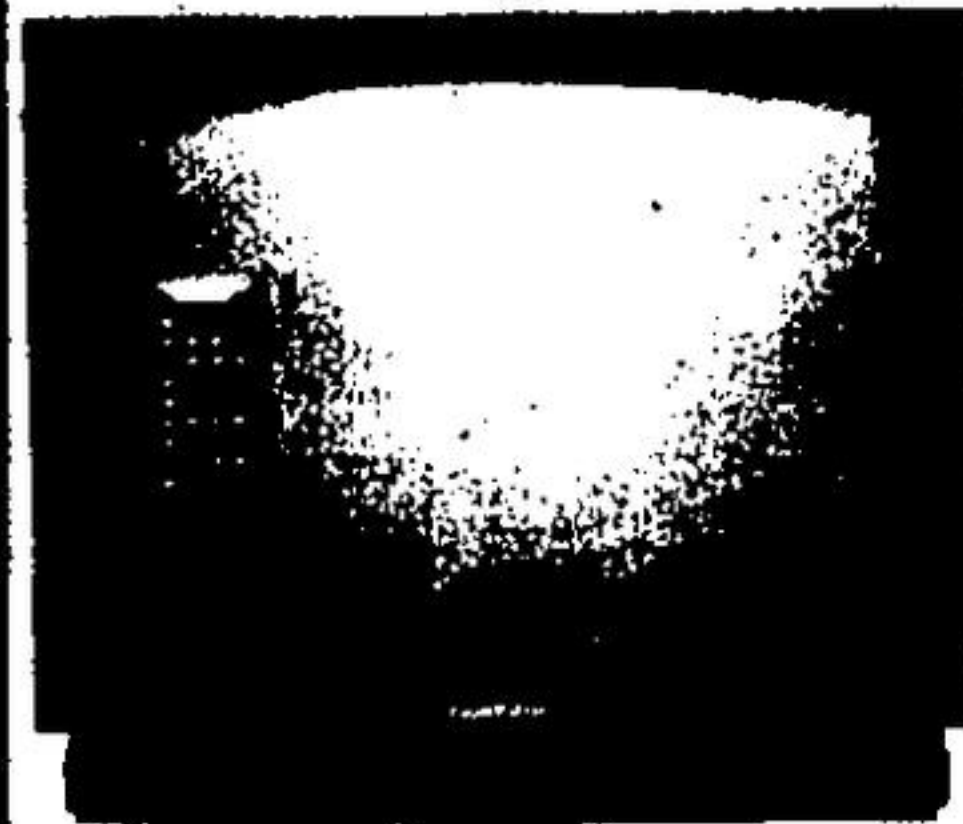
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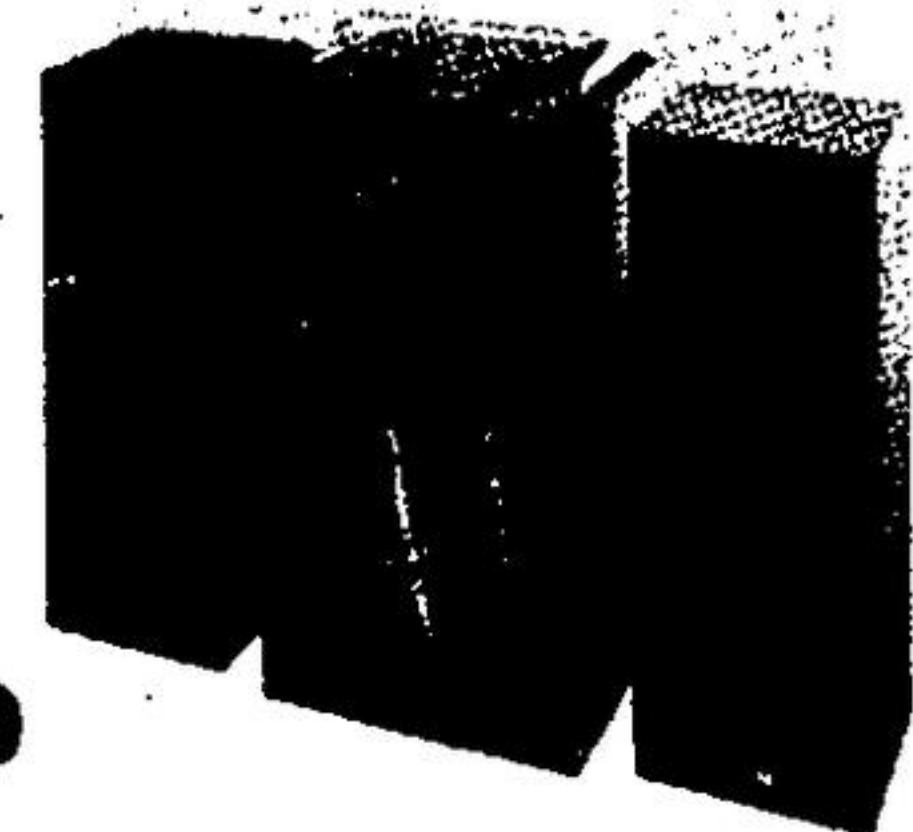
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