

Impaired driving leading criminal cause of death

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quent offence.

When a motorist is charged with Over 80 (more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood), refuses to provide a breath sample (any demand) or being impaired by a drug (subject to a DRE test), aside from the 90-day licence suspension the Highway Traffic Act mandates an immediate seven-day vehicle impoundment with towing and storage costs at the owner's expense.

Drug-impaired driving that causes death could result in life imprisonment.

"There is a prevalent misunderstanding amongst some adolescents that driving high 'isn't that dangerous' and even 'makes one a better driver'. In fact, driving high impairs all the cognitive abilities needed for safe driving," said Snow.

Impaired driving is the leading criminal cause of death and injury in Canada.

In Halton in 2017, 46 drivers faced a 90-day driver's licence suspension. This means that a full DRE test was conducted and the DRE officer determined grounds existed to lay a charge.

Snow said that in contrast, a total of 475 drivers were charged with Impaired and/or Over 80 in 2017, which includes those charged with being impaired by a drug.

That means 10 per cent of drivers charged with impaired offences in 2017 by Halton police were allegedly involved with drugs in sufficient quantities where drugs were the primary cause of impairment.

"It's impossible to know how often, when alcohol is the primary component in sufficient quantities, that drugs may have been on board in the background," said Snow.

"This is relevant as it is commonly known that many users of drugs and alcohol engage in 'poly drug use', which occurs when persons ingest/consume multiple drugs, including alcohol, to achieve their desired effect."

Halton police says that if you witness suspected impaired driving, call 911.

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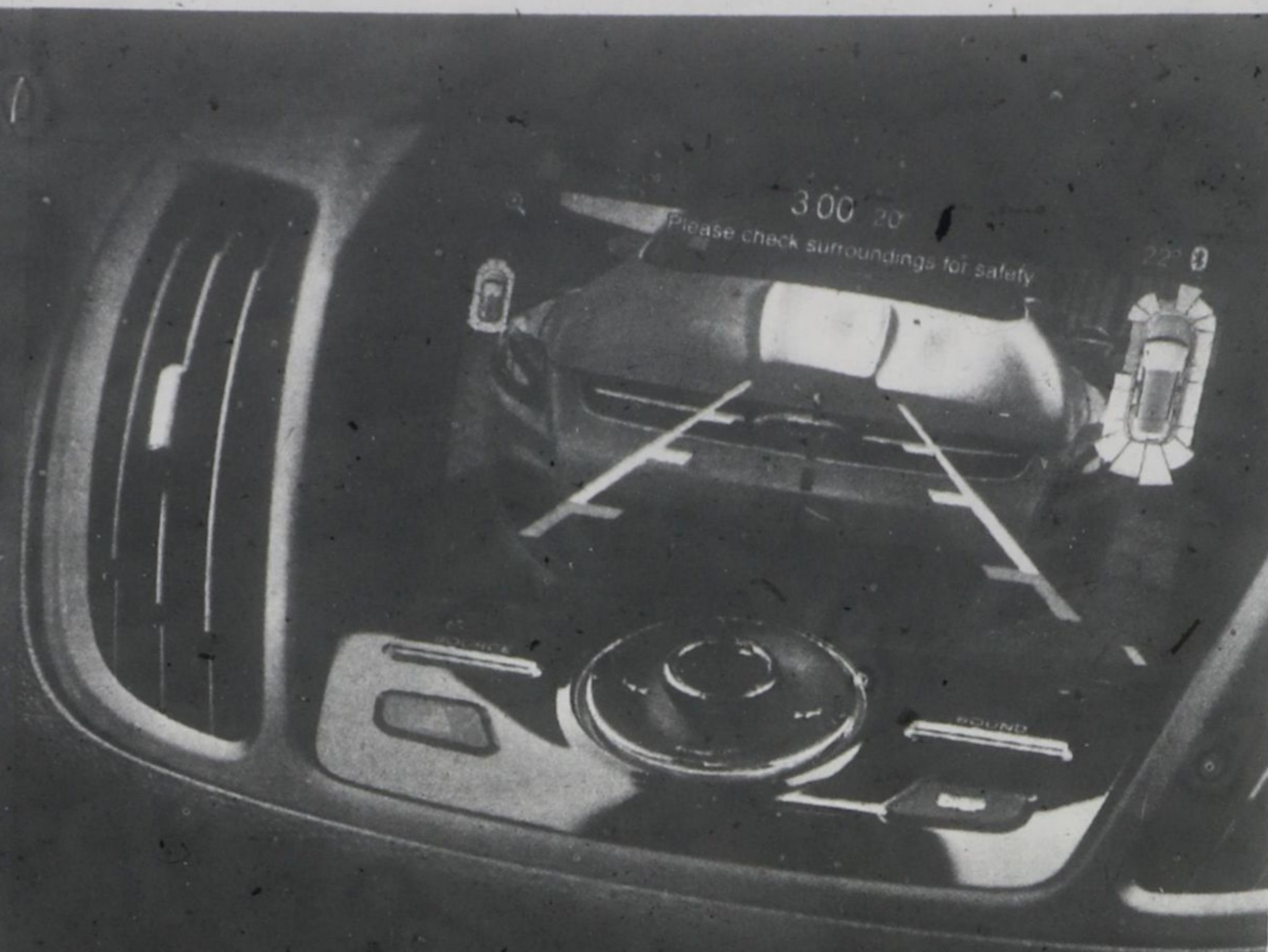
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