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MADD Colorado's Volunteer DUI Checkpoint Manual

**CAMPAIGN TO
ELIMINATE
DRUNK DRIVING**

Updated: 5/3/2009

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Q&A Regarding DUI Checkpoint

What are sobriety checkpoints?

Sobriety checkpoints are a law enforcement technique at which law enforcement officials evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment. Vehicles are stopped in a specific sequence (e.g., every other vehicle or every fourth vehicle).

Is that legal/constitutional?

The Supreme Court ruled in *Michigan v. Sitz* that sobriety checkpoints are constitutional because the small inconvenience that drivers face is overwhelmed by a compelling state interest in saving lives.

How effective are sobriety checkpoints?

Right now, only one arrest is made for every 88 episodes of driving over the illegal limit. Thus, having concentrated enforcement can help apprehend drunk drivers and deter those who hear about the checkpoints from driving under the influence. The Centers for Disease Control studied sobriety checkpoints and found numerous studies that show they can reduce alcohol-related crashes and fatalities by 18-24 percent.

Won't this cost law enforcement a lot of money?

Actually, there are significant cost savings from high-visibility enforcement. One study found that there was an average cost savings of \$50,000 per checkpoint, including over \$3,000 in medical costs. Others have found that checkpoints save between six and 23 dollars for every dollar invested.

Don't saturation patrols, or roving patrols, get more arrests than sobriety checkpoints?

Sobriety checkpoints have a higher visibility and raise the perceived risk of getting caught more than do roving patrols or saturation patrols. This means they deter more people from committing the crime of drunk driving and thus save more lives. Sobriety checkpoints have a strong deterrent effect, which means that they may yield **fewer** arrests because they are doing what they are supposed to do – **prevent** people from committing the crime in the first place. Sobriety checkpoints are similar to a security checkpoint at the airport—they are done for the safety of everyone and they don't take much time.

Won't checkpoints cause a backlash against law enforcement?

Actually, studies have shown at least 75% approval for sobriety checkpoints. Interesting, studies have found 90 percent approval ratings for sobriety checkpoints after checkpoints have begun, meaning that support won't trail off – it will grow.

What is the difference between saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints and roving patrols?

- ▶ Sobriety checkpoint: law enforcement evaluates drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment at certain points on the roadway. Vehicles are stopped in a specific sequence, such as every other vehicle or every fourth, fifth or sixth vehicle. Sobriety checkpoints must display warning signs to motorists. Police must have a reason to believe the driver stopped at a checkpoint has been drinking before field sobriety tests can be conducted.

- ▶ Saturation patrol: concentrated enforcement effort that targets impaired drivers by observing moving violations such as reckless driving, speeding, aggressive driving, and others. A saturation patrol is generally spread over a larger geographic area than a sobriety checkpoint.

Q&A Regarding DUI Checkpoint (continued)

► Roving patrol: an enforcement effort that targets impaired drivers by observing moving violations such as reckless driving, speeding, aggressive driving, and others. Not necessarily enhanced.

Aren't roving patrols/saturation patrols more targeted and successful at catching the higher-risk drivers with high BAC's? Checkpoints are stationary and drunks find their way around them.

The point of a checkpoint is to deter primarily and to enforce the law when required. Sobriety checkpoints are higher visibility and raise the perceived risk of getting caught more than do roving patrols or saturation patrols. This means they deter more people from committing the crime of drunk driving and thus save more lives.

Don't checkpoints target social drinkers?

No. Checkpoints target the general population...anyone driving. If someone is driving impaired, law enforcement will test them and enforce the law. If someone is not driving impaired and has not broken any laws, their stop will be minimal and they will be on their way. Checkpoints reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes when they are frequent, and highly publicized. They deter people from driving impaired.

Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving

The Campaign has four elements:

- Intensive high-visibility law enforcement, including twice-yearly crackdowns and frequent enforcement efforts that include sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols in all 50 states;
- Full implementation of current alcohol ignition interlock technologies, including efforts to require alcohol ignition interlock devices for all convicted drunk drivers. A key part of this effort will be working with judges, prosecutors and state driver's license officials to stop the revolving door of repeat offenders;
- Development of advanced vehicle-based technology that will detect if a driver is drunk and prevent that driver from operating the vehicle;
- Mobilization of grassroots support, led by MADD and its 400+ affiliates, to make the elimination of drunk driving a reality. MADD is uniting drunk driving victims, families, community leaders, and policy makers to fight to eliminate drunk driving

Enforcement

- Highly visible law enforcement crackdowns, including checkpoints and saturation patrols, are proven to get drunk drivers off the road. Americans stand behind strong enforcement: 87 percent say they support the use of sobriety checkpoints.
- It's time for our politicians to do the right thing: every state should allow sobriety checkpoints to find and deter drunk drivers.
- MADD is working with law enforcement agencies, and federal, state and local governments to increase enforcement—especially during peak holiday periods. More than 11,500 law enforcement agencies across the nation participated in the 2006 Labor Day crackdown, and MADD aims to build on that participation through periodic, coordinated crackdowns in the years ahead.

Alcohol Ignition Interlocks

- People drive drunk because they can: research shows that the overwhelming majority of people arrested for drunk driving have driven drunk more than 50 times *before their first arrest*. More than 50 percent of those whose licenses are suspended for DUI drive anyway. Ignition interlocks stop this.
- MADD believes that anyone who violates the public trust by driving at or above .08 deserves and needs an alcohol ignition interlock. The public is behind us: 65 percent support mandatory interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. And 81 percent of the public said the idea of installing an ignition interlock on their vehicle would discourage them from driving drunk.
- One of the best proven ways to stop convicted drunk drivers from continuing to drive drunk is through alcohol ignition interlocks. Interlocks installed in the vehicles of convicted drunk drivers prevent the vehicle from starting if the driver fails a breath test.
- MADD is committed to vastly increasing the number of ignition interlocks installed on convicted drunk drivers' vehicles in the next five years by encouraging states to enact model laws that require alcohol ignition interlock devices for all convicted drunk drivers.
- MADD supports provisions that require interlocks to stay on the vehicles of convicted drunk drivers until they have demonstrated a substantial period of no violations.

Emerging Technology

- The Campaign supports new technology that will allow a vehicle to recognize if a driver is drunk, and to stop the driver from operating that vehicle.

Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving (continued)

– The public is supportive: the majority (58 percent) support advances in smart vehicle technology to prevent drivers from driving drunk. – MADD, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the auto industry and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety have formed a cooperative initiative via the Blue Ribbon Panel on Advanced Alcohol Detection Technology to help bring this new technology to market in the next 10 years through a non-regulatory, voluntary and data driven effort.

– There are several technologies being explored, for example, measurement of blood alcohol levels through skin contact with vehicle surfaces such as the steering wheel.

Public Support

– MADD is building a broad Campaign coalition that will include law enforcement agencies, judicial organizations, auto manufacturers, insurers, distilled spirits companies, technology companies, safety advocates, health care professionals, emergency technicians, and government at the local, state and federal levels.

– The public can support the Campaign by making a donation to MADD and by tying a MADD red ribbon to their vehicles or placing a red ribbon cling to their vehicle windows and by signing the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving Pledge at www.madd.org

– By intensifying efforts, creating partnerships and developing innovative solutions, MADD is taking the fight against drunk driving to a new and unprecedented level.

MADD Colorado's Policies and Guidelines for Volunteers Working at DUI Checkpoints

Safety is the number one priority and needs to be your top concern no matter what task with which you are assisting. If you have a safety concern(s) please check with the law enforcement contact at the checkpoint.

General Safety:

A safety vest must be worn at all times. Be aware of your surroundings. Make sure you don't get too focused on you task at hand that you forget to pay attention to what is going on around you. Work together. Your job as a MADD volunteer is to assist law enforcement. At all times be sure to stand on the side of the road, unless otherwise instructed to stand elsewhere. It is imperative for your safety and the safety of other to stay out of the flow of traffic.

Dress Code:

Please dress appropriately. Casual clothing is fine, but we ask that your attire be neat and conservative. Wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes and dress in layers so you are prepared for various weather conditions. Please refrain from wearing clothing that may be considered revealing and/or offensive. Clothing referencing alcohol, drugs and/or sexual behavior are not allowed. If your supervisor feels your attire is not appropriate, you may be asked to leave.

Absences and Lateness:

MADD Volunteers are expected to be reliable in the performance of their duties. Attendance is expected to be dependable and punctual. If you are unable to report or you will arrive late, please notify the law enforcement contact the night of the checkpoint immediately. If it is prior to the night of the checkpoint, please contact the MADD Colorado State Office. Please give us as much time as possible to arrange for someone else to cover for you. If you have to leave prior to the end of the checkpoint, make sure to notify the MADD Colorado State Office prior to the Checkpoint. When you leave you must notify the Checkpoint Coordinator/Contact.

Cell Phones:

Use of a personal cell phone while working at a checkpoint is not allowed. Please excuse yourself by notifying MADD's Volunteer DUI Checkpoint Coordinator/Law Enforcement Contact from the checkpoint should you need to make or take a phone call

Job Assignments:

Volunteer DUI Checkpoint tasks should be assigned at the DUI Checkpoint briefing. If you are unsure about your task or how to execute the task you have been assigned, consult with either the MADD Volunteer DUI Checkpoint Coordinator and/or the DUI Checkpoint Law Enforcement contact. It is vital that you are 100% clear on your assigned task and how to complete it. *All information, including who collected that information at a DUI Checkpoint can be used in DUI court cases. Incorrect or missing information can impact a case. Please note there is a chance that you could be subpoenaed for the information you collect.*

Below are several possible tasks you could be asked to complete:

- Set-up/take-down cone formation for the DUI Checkpoint
- Collect various statistics such as; weather conditions, number of cars, DUI arrest statistics
- Direct traffic by holding stop signs

Chain of Command:

| Off-site DUI Checkpoint-Chain of Command: | On-site DUI Checkpoint- Chain of Command: |
|--|---|
| MADD Colorado State Office Program Specialist- 303.425.5902 MADD Colorado State Office Administrator- 303.425.5902/ co.state@madd.org MADD Colorado State Executive Director- 303.425.5902 | MADD Volunteer DUI Checkpoint Coordinator Law Enforcement DUI Checkpoint Contact |

MADD Colorado’s Policies and Guidelines for Volunteers Working at DUI Checkpoints
(continued)

| DO’S | DON’TS |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do watch out for moving traffic and others around you • Do ask questions if you don’t understand what is being asked of you • Do help each other out • Do wear a safety vest, closed toe shoes, multiple layers and appropriate clothing. • Do sign your annual Checkpoint Release Form and send it to the MADD Colorado State Office so that you can get started today! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t stand in the middle of the road, even if the road is blocked off • Don’t make contact with people in the cars coming through the DUI Checkpoint • Don’t have your back to traffic • Don’t leave a checkpoint without notifying the Checkpoint Coordinator/Contact. • Don’t stand behind any law enforcement officer, unless instructed to do so. • Don’t stop a task you have been assigned without notifying the Checkpoint Coordinator/ Contact |

Harassment:

MADD intends to provide a work environment that is pleasant, healthful, comfortable and free from intimidation, hostility or other offenses which might interfere with performance. Harassment may include words, signs, jokes, pranks, intimidation, physical contact or violence. Harassment of any sort – verbal, physical, visual or sexual will not be tolerated.

Sexual harassment may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature which creates an intimidating environment or prevents an individual from effectively performing the duties of their position.

As a volunteer with MADD, you are responsible for keeping our work environment free of harassment. Any volunteer who feels that they have been harassed or becomes aware of an incident of harassment, whether by witnessing the incident or being told of it, must report it to any MADD staff person with whom you feel comfortable. When MADD is made aware that harassment may have taken place, MADD will take prompt and appropriate action.

DUI Checkpoint Release Forms:

DUI Checkpoint Release Forms must be signed annually and on file at the Colorado State Office prior to working at a checkpoint. Failure to comply will result in you being unable to volunteer at a DUI Checkpoint.

(See Appendix A)



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DUI CHECKPOINT PARTICIPATION RELEASE & INDEMNIFICATION

I, the undersigned, affirm my desire to participate in the 2009 DUI Checkpoint(s) in the State of Colorado conducted by a Colorado Law Enforcement Agency on dates to be determined by dispensing MADD materials, setting up and down cone formation, processing vehicles and/or other duties as assigned. I expressly agree to assume full responsibility for any risk of bodily injury and/or property damage arising out of or related to my attendance at and/or participation in the Event, including without limitation traveling to and from the Event. I understand that the Event is not sponsored by MADD and my participation in the Event is on a voluntary basis.

I agree, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, to not sue and to release, indemnify and hold harmless, MADD, its affiliates, officers, directors, volunteers and employees, and all sponsoring businesses and organizations and their agents and employees, from any and all liability, claims, demands, and causes of action whatsoever, arising out of my participation or attendance at the Event and related activities - whether it results from the negligence of any of the above or from any other cause. This release and indemnification agreement shall be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the applicable law. If any portion of it is held invalid, the balance shall continue in full force and effect. I have read, understand and agree to the terms of this Agreement.

I have read the foregoing release and indemnification agreement, and I hereby agree on behalf of myself to its terms.

 Participant Signature

 Printed Name Date

 Parent or Legal Guardian Signature
 If Participant a Minor

 Printed Name Date

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Relationship to Participant: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone Number: _____



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MADD Colorado's Volunteer DUI Checkpoint Manual Acknowledgement of Receipt

I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with all policies within the MADD Colorado Volunteer DUI Checkpoint Manual. I also understand and agree that these policies are confidential and proprietary to MADD.

MADD reserves the right to revise/change/alter any and all policies as required.

Volunteer's Signature

Date

Volunteer's Name (please print)

Please sign and return to MADD Colorado State Office at:
MADD Colorado
Attn: Program Specialist
444 Lincoln St.
Denver, CO 80203