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DWI, DUI, And BAC: Three Deadly Acronyms

By Doug Smith

DWI – Driving While Intoxicated. DUI – Driving Under the Influence (of alcohol or drugs). BAC –

These three acronyms form a deadly combination. The main links between the three are alcohol and driving. It is well documented that drinking alcohol impairs judgment, slows reaction time, and decreases coordination. When a person is DWI or DUI, he or she is piloting a one-ton time bomb with little control over it. Is it speeding towards you?

These three acronyms have legal ramifications too. DUI and DWI are criminal offenses. To determine if a DWI or DUI offense has been committed, it is necessary to measure how much alcohol was consumed by the suspect driver (the BAC).

In the field, police officers utilize tests to determine the amount of a driver's impairment due to alcohol. Such tests include, but are not limited to, breath alcohol tests and field sobriety tests. The breath test is further discussed in this article.

A person's reaction to alcohol varies widely. Some factors that affect alcohol impairment include gender, body weight, time of last meal, time of day, alcohol tolerance, medications, genetics, rate of alcohol consumption, and many more.

A police officer stopping a suspected drunk driver has visual, olfactory (smell), and breath tests to judge a person's impairment from alcohol. The officer must make some kind of quantitative determination of the amount of alcohol impairment at the time of the stop. All the factors mentioned above do not matter to the officer. All he or she wants to do is to create a "snapshot" of the degree of impairment.

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is a measure of the amount of alcohol in the blood, expressed as a percentage by volume. This can be measured precisely by taking a sample of the driver's blood for analysis. In the U.S., a BAC level of 0.08% (commonly written as .08) or more is considered illegal. However, the officer on patrol certainly doesn't have a medical lab in the car, and must rely on a breath testing device.

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The brand name Breathalyzer is often used generically to describe devices that measure blood alcohol concentration. This type of breath analyzer does not actually measure the concentration of alcohol in the blood. Instead, the reading on the breath analyzer is only an estimate of the alcohol in the blood.

Correlations between the amount of alcohol in the blood and the resulting amount of alcohol in the breath have been made. The tests show the ratio to be approximately 2100 (in the blood) to about 1 (in the breath), or 2100:1. Based on factors listed above, a person's blood:breath alcohol ratio can vary from 1700:1 to 2400:1.

In simpler terms, if an average person has 2100 drops of alcohol in the blood, the breath tester will show a reading of 1 drop. Doctors have measured the blood and breath alcohol contents of test subjects simultaneously, allowing them to calculate the relationship between alcohol in the blood and

alcohol in the breath.

When a drunk driving suspect blows into the breath alcohol tester, the machine measures the alcohol in the breath. The machine then calculates the amount of alcohol in the blood by using a blood:breath alcohol ratio. This calculation of BAC is only an estimate. However, that estimate is what goes on the police report and is what the judge will see.

The next time you have consumed alcohol and feel like you are not impaired to drive, remember these points. First, your confidence may be simply alcohol-induced euphoria. Second, your life and the lives of those you drive near may all depend on what the little breath machine thinks is normal. Are you willing to bet your freedom on the opinion of some fancy calculator? Me neither. Be safe!

Need DWI help fast? Investigate the free tips at the resource below.

Do you need to get out of a DWI / DUI arrest or conviction? Know someone who does? Discover the best free DWI resources about drunk driving, attorneys, and your DWI rights

<http://dwi.findcarsforhire.com>

Caught Drunk Driving? How To Find A DUI Lawyer

By Stu Pearson

The very moment you get your first car is also the moment you sign on to obey the slue of road laws out there. One of these laws is the Driving Under the Influence Law or DUI, also known as Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). Different states have different definitions of this law but the most important thing to know is DUI law is the one car owners most commonly violate.

Car accidents due to drunk driving have increased in numbers over the year and no matter how strict or lenient the DUI laws are in your state, the consequences are all the same: severe and life-changing.

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If you have been accused of breaking a DUI law, you can find a lawyer that specializes in such things to help you with your case. DUI lawyers in your area can be found online and family, friends, or ideally a family lawyer, can also refer you.

Each state has a different legal limit for blood alcohol content level (BAC). But in general, if a motorist's BAC exceeds .08%, he or she is violating DUI law. Depending on the situation, those convicted of drunk driving can endure punishments that range from a suspension or revocation of a license to a long stay in prison.

The average consequence, at least in forty–five states in America, is that those who have committed DUI offenses are permitted to drive again, but only if their vehicles are equipped with ignition interlocks, sophisticated equipment that tests a driver's breath for alcohol content.

This device requires a driver to blow into a small handheld alcohol sensor that is attached to the dashboard. As long as the driver's BAC is a legal percentage, then the car will start - otherwise, it won't. Occasionally, the ignition interlock will even check a person's breath while he or she is driving. This clever device allows drunk driving offenders to continue their life and responsibilities, whilst reminding them of their mistakes and forcing them to drive only when sober.

Depending on the age of a DUI offender, punishment and sentencing varies. A qualified DUI lawyer can explain any details and advise you on the legal remedies available.

Never hesitate to contact a DUI lawyer to handle your case; bear in mind that DUI laws are carefully geared to convict violators.

Stu Pearson has an interest in Business & Technology related topics. To access more information on

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