



**off
the
road**

About the program - “Off the Road” is a unique program because we can provide a safe mode of transportation for the patron and their vehicle. There are other programs in Alaska but they will not compare to the “Off the Road”. This service can be requested by the patron or by the determination of the on premise liquor licensed establishment to limit liabilities and to protect the general public.

Although we try to encourage those who choose to drink alcohol to do so responsibly, we recognize that some people are going to choose to drink to the point of intoxication. Even those who make provisions for alternative rides may have those plans thwarted -- a designated driver may lapse into drinking, a bus may be missed, and so forth. The programs administrators assume that it is the nature of safety nets to catch more than the minimum. With the philosophy that it is better to accept some limited amount of abuse (such as using the service when other sage ways home may exist) rather than risk excluding any legitimate use, servers are instructed never to turn down an *Off the Road* request. *Our thinking is that the risk of denying a legitimate ride far outweighs the risk of allowing a certain amount of abuse.*

Everyone, regardless of socio-economic level, is a potential victim of a drunk driver. Therefore everyone in our community will benefit from this program – not only the potential drunk driver, but also every person who may be a victim of that drunk driver. Another basic principal of the program is to remove all physical and psychological barriers to its use. The ride home is completely free and confidential. **Since the program started in 2005, there have not been any accidents proving that it is safer to have a sober professional licensed chauffeur transport the patron’s vehicle home by not taking the risk of having the patron drive their vehicle.**

The information required on the *Off the Road* voucher is minimal but necessary for responsible operation of the program. The person initiating the call for the ride must complete basic information on the voucher such as the date and time, establishment name, location of the rides origination, the authorizing person’s name and signature, the full name of the rider and the exact destination. The safe ride driver will ask the patron if they are covered with insurance or if they have insurance; the drivers will complete the driver’s information part of the voucher. The remaining voucher information will be completed by the personnel at the participating establishments. Vouchers must be completely filled out.

In 2008 in Anchorage there were 2,777 DUI arrests out of this amount 453 resulted in accidents. In 2008 there were 16 total fatalities of which 8 resulted in an alcohol related fatality.

In 2008, Alaska experienced 62 fatalities of which 17 resulted in alcohol related fatal crashes.

In 2009, in Anchorage there were 2,604 DUI arrests of which 324 resulted in accidents. In 2009 there were 17 fatal accidents of which 7 were alcohol related. According to the Anchorage Police Department this number is down from 2008 by 4% and our plan is to continue to assist our police department in taking this percentage down every year. Not everyone will participate in the program, but we hope that with every ride taken a life could be saved.

In 2009, Alaska experienced 64 fatalities of which 20 resulted in alcohol related crashes. In collaboration with the Anchorage Police Department and the Alaska Highway Safety Office ultimately would help reduce the amount of alcohol related fatalities by finding new and strategic measures to fight against impaired driving in general. We would like to see alcohol related DUI's reduced 1% by the end of 2010 and as of this writing, we can say that alcohol related accidents reduced by 4%. According to the Anchorage Police Department alcohol is no longer the main reason for DUI arrests. DUI arrests have increased because the amount of drug use (prescription and illegal) is on the rise in youth as well as adults. Even enough cough syrup while operating a vehicle can be classified as a DUI. We strongly believe through the power of education, we can help our citizens make the right choice. Conducting program awareness classes in the military bases will help partner our efforts in reducing drunken driving.

The overall result would be a reduction of drunk drivers which will benefit the community at large.

According to the Alaska Highway Safety Office in the State of Alaska in 2008, 17 out of 62 fatalities were alcohol related for a rate of 31%. Our motto "one ride taken can result in one life saved".

Currently there are 63 participating establishments. Since 2005 when the program began, over 821 individual rides have taken place and over 2379 vouchers have been sold.

Although the safe ride is free to the patron, program participants purchase ten vouchers at time at \$10 each to support the program. Not all establishments use the vouchers for the complete safe ride; some establishments use the vouchers when a patron is in need of a ride home without a vehicle; the only down side is that the voucher is used but not counted as an "off the road" ride.

In order to be able to maintain a ridership level that is not abused or under-utilized vouchers are assigned as they are purchased to each individual establishment. Vouchers are recorded on a spreadsheet as they are used and returned to us by the safe ride company. The patrons' information is confidential and kept for informational purpose only.