



Drinking and Driving

eSafetyLine

Don't Shoot the DD

The DD or Designated Driver is many times mocked and or enticed into drinking by well meaning friends and hosts. The reality is that DDs have probably saved close to 50,000 lives and saved many thousands more people from suffering injury from drunk driving.

A designated driver is simply a person who agrees not to drink alcohol and be responsible for driving others home. Those with a DD are free to drink as much or as little alcohol as they want to. A designated driver helps family, friends and coworkers avoid:

- Embarrassment
- Losing their drivers' licenses
- Fines
- Jail time
- Senseless injury and death

Unfortunately, many times the DD is the object of teasing by the very people they're trying to help. To make the job of the DD a bit easier it is helpful to decide before you arrive at a party, event or bar who the DD will be and to take turns with friends, family and coworkers being the DD.

At the end of the night, it would be great that all abide by the DD agreement, that is let the DD drive you home, even if you don't "feel drunk". However, this is not always the case. Sometimes the DD has a hard time getting the keys from someone they are supposed to be driving. Some hints to get the keys from folks and help keep them safe are:

- Get the keys from them BEFORE they start drinking. One sign of being impaired is that you don't feel impaired. This makes you think that you can safely drive when really you can't.
- The DD should try to stay calm and joke about taking the keys. Don't make something real serious out of the situation.

- Try to make it clear to the drunk person that you're doing them a favor, not punishing them.
- Try to get the keys from them while they are distracted. Once the keys are "gone", they will have to accept a ride to get home.
- If it is a good friend or relative, the DD should refuse to ride in the car if the drunken person is driving.
- If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational. This could amp up the situation and make matters worse.

It is important to remember that the DD is trying to help keep you and others safe and that the best thing to do is enjoy the night AND the safe ride home.

Discussion Questions

What does the DD help family, friends and coworkers avoid?

What is the best way to avoid the argument over keys and driving at the end of the night?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date