

## Summer 2011 Road Rules

Despite education programs in schools, communities, and the mass media, alcohol is a factor in 32% of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States, including a number of recent deadly accidents in Chester County. In 2009 alone, 10,839 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents. That's an average of one impaired-driving fatality every 48 minutes in the United States.

The alcohol impairment charts below offer a general guideline of blood alcohol levels, and are not guaranteed to be accurate for each individual. Alcohol affects different people in different ways. Gender, weight, how much a person has eaten prior to drinking, type of alcohol, and even the temperature may affect a person's absorption of alcohol into his or her system.

As the charts show, impairment begins with the first drink. The only safe driving limit is zero drinks before getting behind the wheel. Anyone who drinks and drives risks losing more than his license—he could be putting the lives of himself, his passengers, and other motorists and pedestrians at stake.