

## **Officials hope new video will contribute to drop in drinking and driving**

By: Hank Schaller, News Reporter  
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### **Video is intended to help anyone serving liquor to recognize signs of problem drinkers**

Figuring out when someone has had too much to drink is an everyday dilemma for anyone who works for one of the 1,000 bars, restaurants and nightclubs in Oakland County. Serving a drink to a customer who later goes out on the highway and kills someone or dies of alcohol poisoning can mean jail time or large fines for the bartender, waiter or waitress who served the drinks and the business that employs them.

The Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County unveiled a new 19-minute training video called "Alcohol Server Video - Your Responsibilities" Thursday at Mr. B's in Troy. They hope the video will serve as a refresher course for anyone who serves drinks for a living.

"This video is meant to educate and stimulate servers regarding the legal and moral responsibilities that are a vital part of the job," said Frank Cardimen, president of the TIA. Financed with a \$13,500 grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, salesmen for the two distributors of Anheuser-Busch products like Budweiser and Bud Light in Oakland County will be distributing videos to their customers beginning next week.

"If everyone - servers, law enforcement, friends and family - all do their jobs and reinforce that drunk driving is reckless and kills, I'm convinced we can prevent drunk drivers and we can solve this problem," said Thomas Vella, senior vice president and general manager of Pontiac-based Hubert Distributors Inc.

Hubert Distributors supplies Anheuser Busch products to the estimated 700 bars, restaurants and nightclubs located north of 10 Mile Road in Oakland County; Central Distributors of Romulus supplies beer to another 300 businesses located farther south.

Narrated by Cam Carmen of Fox 2 Detroit, the video gives servers tips on how to recognize when someone has had too much to drink.

"We try to train people where they will not allow drinkers to get to the point where they have to cut them off," said Patti Parker-Forbes, a master trainer for Training For Intervention Procedures, which offers a four-hour course for bar employees.

Although mandatory training for alcohol servers is not required in Michigan, Parker-Forbes, who has traveled across the state and nation doing training, said drinking establishments in Oakland County are more responsible than any other Michigan county when it comes to training their employees.

During the video, servers hear from Troy resident David Easterbrook, whose daughter, Ashley, and two friends were killed in 1997 when a drunken driver ran a red light at 80 mph after being served too many drinks.

They also hear from Clarkston residents John and Cindy McCue, whose son, Brad, a Michigan State University junior, died of alcohol poisoning in 1998 after being served 24 shots at a campus bar while celebrating his 21st birthday.

Among others featured in the video are 48th District Judge Kimberly Small, Deputy Lew Tyler of

the Oakland County Sheriff's Department's Alcohol Enforcement Team and Chief Deputy  
Prosecutor John N. O'Brien.

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