CBS NEWS STORY

Alco-Checkpoints Blow Into Omaha Bars: May 3, 2011 - CBS NEWS

It's a question that's gets asked so many times by so many people, am I legally ok to drive after drinking? It's a choice that's many times been the decision between life and death. Now, a breathalyzer vending machine is giving drinkers a little help when making that decision.

Patrons put in some money grab a straw, and wait for the machine to tell you to blow into tube. It then reveals your BAC, and lights up if you're under the legal limit to drive, or not. Patrick Vondra the Vice President of Clancy's and Club Patrick's says he likes patrons having another option.

Nightlife Vending says the Alco-Checkpoint is billed as a novelty device, and doesn't hold vendors, or bar owners liable. They've been installed at all 3 Clancy's in Omaha as well as 6 other places in just 3 months.

"You hear that saying friends don't let friends drive drunk, and it's really true, now we all have the opportunity to use the machine as a service to look out for your buddies," said Drew Berg, Co-owner of Nightlife Vending.

The machine says don't drink or smoke 10 minutes before taking the test. Bar owners say the two dollars is definitely worth the success stories that are possibly saving lives. Bob Freshman with the Phoenix Bar and Grill says that it's making people more aware, and responsible.

"Judging from the number of cab rides we've had over the past 30 days versus what it was before, i think people are taking it seriously," Freshman described.

Though sold as a novelty device, vendors say the accuracy of the sensors inside the machine are within .01% as long as someone doesn't drink or smoke for 10 minutes before using it. They also re-calibrate them about every two weeks.

"Regardless of the reason why someone uses these machines, they're going to have the idea that they shouldn't be drinking and driving. Just reinforced every single time," said Hethe Berg, Co-owner of Nightlife Vending.

Bar owners say they don't feel the Alco-Checkpoint promotes irresponsible behavior or binge drinking because that's already in a person's behavior. But when it comes to asking the tough questions, the breathalyzer may stop someone from making a deadly mistake.

"One thing that we see all the time with these machines is that after they use it and someone blows over the legal limit, what happens is it's their friends who start asking those important questions like are you driving home?" Hethe Berg added.

Some bar patrons say they are seeing it used more for entertainment.

Kristy Prentis said, "At the end of the night you see a group of people trying to out do each other, so I think it's more for fun."

City prosecutor Marty Conboy, a huge proponent to stop drinking and driving, says these devices have a good side and bad side. The benefit is people pay attention to how much they drink, but Conboy says it might encourage people to get as close as possible to the limit before driving.



ALCOHOL EDUCATION CLASS	\$865
COMMUNITY SERVICE SUPERVISION FEE	\$75
LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FEE	
CAR STORAGE FEE PER DAY	\$25
COST TO TOW YOUR CAR	\$150
VICTIM'S PANEL ASSESSMENT (IF ORDERED)	\$10
MINIMUM FINE	\$300
ANTABUSE	\$50
MONITORING	\$240
RESTITUTION COST FOR CHEMICAL TESTING	\$50
PROBATION SUPERVISION FEE	\$50 PER MONTH (\$600 A YEAR)
BAIL FEE (AVERAGE 10% OF REQUIRED BOND)	\$85
ALCOHOL EVALUATION	
VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE FUND.	\$60
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FUND	\$25
VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND	
AUTO INSURANCE INCREASE (\$1,600 PENALTY FOR THREE YEARS)	\$4,400
DRIVER'S LICNESE RETESTING AND NEW LICENSE	\$25
ALCOHOL UA TESTING	\$300
DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S FEES	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$10,036

ALCO-checkPoint

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Alco-Checkpoint is proud to present the very best in Alcohol Breathalyzer Vending Machines!

Having one on site gives your staff and customers a "pay-per-use" breath alcohol tester at their disposal

Alco-Checkpoint's have been implemented into hundred of locations all over the world in just 4 years!

Nowadays, DUI laws are very strict and so many people are mislead about how easy it is to bypass the .08 legal intoxication limit.

The Alco-Checkpoint is a great machine to have at any alcohol serving business.

When placed in high-traffic locations, these machines are great money makers!

Having an Alco-Checkpoint on site will potentially save thousands of lives per year!

No matter how the Alco-Checkpoint is used, for fun or in seriousness, it promotes a positive message, "don't drink and drive!"

Why Your Business Needs One!

- -It is completely FREE to your business!
- -A simple, intelligent and discreet way for customers to test themselves before deciding to drive
- -Comes with professional installation and maintenance
- -It takes very little room and uses only a little electricity
- -Protect the liability of your business by offering customers a tool to discreetly test themselves before heading out on the road
- -Will promote a positive image of your business and show customers you care as well as set you apart from the competition
- -One day soon they will be mandatory at all alcohol serving businesses!
- -Lower your insurance liability (check w/provider)
- -Helps your patrons decide to keep drinking! As people realize how quickly they reach the .08 level they will decide to take a cab and continue drinking
- -There are disclaimers on the Alco-Checkpoint releasing any liability, results of each test are not recorded, tests are self-administered and considered "non-evidential" in a court of law. It is the same as a person taking a handheld breath test by themselves.

How To Use The Alco-Checkpoint

- 1. Take straw from bottom of machine and place on straw nozzle
- 2. Insert Bill(s)
- 3. Wait for 10 second countdown then blow continuously into the Alco-Checkpoint
- 4. View BAC results on screen (not recorded)



SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions: 1.7 ft. x 1 ft. x 7 inches

Weight: 24 Lbs.

Bill Acceptor: Can accept 1-4 bills per test **Audible Instructions and Languages:**

English, Spanish, Portuguese, German and More...

Volume control

A combination of languages is possible

Machine Design:

Made of solid steel, layered with powder coat high gloss paint

Holds up to 600 straws, dispensed from bottom of machine (standard straws can be used)

Electronic Components:

Digital display with 2 different colors to indicate the results of Breath Alcohol Concentration (red and green)

4 graphic screens that guide you through the test, (in case you can't hear the voice instructions due to loud surroundings)

Systems:

Automatic calibration system: Starts every time the machine is powered on (calibrate every 2-3 months or every 600-700 uses)

Breathalyzer check-up system: Detects any malfunctioning of the machine

Cleaning system: Eliminates any prior breath samples after each test

Anti-condensation system: Prevents condensation from entering the machine after each test.

Alcohol sensor replacement indicator: The machine indicates when the alcohol sensor must be replaced (supplied by Alco-Checkpoint). Sensors last between 900-1100+ uses and cost only \$80!

Installation:

Wall mounted through back plate of steel box Plugs into an electric outlet

Accuracy: (+/- .01)

Calibration Frequency (1x per 2-3 months)

Electricity Used:

24 kW-hr/month x \$0.10 /kW-hr = \$2.40 per month