



IMPACT

Informed Merchants Preventing
Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies

Introduction

The mission of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is to administer the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act in a manner that fosters and protects the health, safety, welfare and economic well being of the people of the State.

The IMPACT Program is a prevention and education program developed by ABC in 1984. It uses the community oriented policing approach of involving local merchants in deterring crime.

Goals and Objectives

The IMPACT Program's primary goal is to reduce alcohol-related crime in and around licensed premises.

The program's major objectives are: (a) Conduct visits and inspections of licensed premises; (b) Identify instances of non-compliance at licensed premises; (c) Take appropriate enforcement action on any major violations observed; and (d) Conduct follow up visits as needed to check for compliance.

Program Components

- PARTNERSHIP.** The IMPACT Program teams an ABC investigator with a local law enforcement officer. These sworn officers visit licensed outlets in a marked police vehicle. To create public awareness, the vehicle bears magnetic signs that read, "ABC ENFORCEMENT TEAM."
- INSPECTION AND ADVISEMENT.** IMPACT teams select and survey licensed outlets at random. During their visits, IMPACT teams remind licensees of the responsibilities and accountability associated with the sale of alcohol. The officers also inspect licensed premises for compliance with State and local laws. The officers may look for loitering, litter, graffiti, posted signs, slot machines, lack of food service in restaurants, illegal weapons, or other violations.

Although the focus is to educate, officers will take action if they see any major violations during the inspections. A checklist is used to note any violations observed and it is given to the licensee. Licensees must then correct any problem areas.

If the licensee has any questions after the IMPACT team has left the premises, the licensee may call the nearest ABC district or branch office (listed on the reverse) or local law enforcement agency.
- FOLLOW-UP VISITS.** About 20 days later, officers conduct follow-up visits to see if the licensee corrected the problems noted. If the licensee has not, the checklist is noted and the information is given to the local ABC district or branch office for possible disciplinary action against the license. In addition, officers may issue a criminal citation for any criminal violations.
- MEDIA.** Impact teams use the media to publicize their activities. Media stories are generally positive, telling how the program helps bring about voluntary compliance among licensees who may be unaware of the law.

Results and Impact

Response from the public has been very favorable. Merchants have accepted the program and its philosophy because they are being offered a chance to identify and correct any problems without penalties. Local communities endorse the program because it (1) improves the relationship between law enforcement and merchants, and (2) improves neighborhood conditions.

By involving the media, IMPACT has heightened public awareness of the influence that poorly-managed retail alcohol outlets can have on the quality of life in a community. Following IMPACT visits, most merchants--including some of the most indifferent operators--have improved their business practices by checking I.D. more thoroughly, discouraging drunken loiterers, and removing graffiti and excess signage. The IMPACT Program also teaches local law enforcement officers about the ABC laws they must enforce.

Funding

Costs are minimal and results are immediate and lasting. No special funding is needed because personnel hours are charged to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Compliance Program budget. Local law enforcement agencies generally use traffic, vice, or patrol hours.

Contact Information

For more information contact your nearest ABC district or branch office:

Bakersfield	(661) 395-2731
El Monte.	(626) 927-1060
Eureka	(707) 445-7229
Fresno	(559) 225-6334
Inglewood.	(310) 412-6311
Long Beach/Lakewood	(562) 982-1337
Los Angeles/Metro	(213) 736-2005
Oakland	(510) 622-4970
Rancho Mirage.	(760) 568-0990
Redding	(530) 224-4830
Riverside	(909) 782-4400
Sacramento	(916) 227-2002
Salinas	(831) 755-1990
San Diego.	(619) 525-4064
San Francisco	(415) 557-3660
San Jose.	(408) 277-1200
San Luis Obispo.	(805) 543-7183
San Marcos.	(760) 471-4237
Santa Ana	(714) 558-4101
Santa Rosa	(707) 576-2165
Stockton.	(209) 948-7739
Van Nuys	(818) 901-5017
Ventura.	(805) 289-0100
Yuba City	(530) 751-8570