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Mountaineer Brewfest Alcohol Awareness Guide

Alcohol Awareness

Valley Groove Productions, Inc dba Mountaineer Brewfest wants to make all volunteers aware of the effects of beer consumption at the Mountaineer Brewfest. By recognizing the "early" signs of intoxication, monitoring your festival patron's consumption, and treating them as you would a guest in your own home; you fulfill your responsibility and protect the guest.

Alcohol is a mood-altering drug. It may appear to be a stimulant, but it is actually a depressant, limiting bodily functions. Only the passage of time rids the body of the effects of alcohol.

Responsible dispensers of beer at our festival need to be aware of the progressive effects of alcohol and alert to the signs of over-indulgence. Although any one particular behavior may not indicate intoxication, a combination of several behaviors is a definite warning signal.

Intoxication vs. Impairment

Impairment and intoxication is not the same thing. Impairment starts at the first drink. Intoxication is the point where a person's intake of alcohol affects their ability to perform appropriately.

Checking Ids

Serving alcohol to a minor can have very serious consequences. All ID's will be checked at entrance to the Mountaineer Brewfest.

Beer Dispensing Guidelines

- Before serving a guest, determine his or her condition. (See symptoms of intoxication below)
- Limit the number of beers poured in our Beer Garden area to two 12/16 oz pours per visit
- Watch for changes in the customer's behavior. Don't hesitate to decline further service, if you think the customer is becoming intoxicated.
- Don't serve. If you have any doubts about a customer's condition, refuse service.
- Promote responsible drinking behavior and encourage eating while drinking
- Bottled water will be available at the festival.
- Police officers are on site to enforce the law and the festival rules of conduct.
- Phone number for local cab services will be available and freely disseminated.

Symptoms of Intoxication

Coordination:

- Stagger, sways while attempting to stand still; holding on to bar, chair, etc.
- Loss of train of thought (stops talking in mid-sentence)
- Stands with feet wide apart for balance.
- Leans against structure for support.
- Fumbles with wallet or money.
- Slurred speech or speaking very slowly and deliberately
- Falls off a stool or chair
- Slurs or trips over words while ordering.

Reduced Judgment / Change in Behavior:

- Buys rounds for strangers or the house
- Argues / Annoys employees or other customers
- Consumes drinks faster than usual, gulps drinks, orders doubles
- Complains about strength of drink or slowness of service
- Sudden or unexplained mood changes



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- Bragging
- Overly friendly
- Gets more quiet or goes to sleep
- Becomes overly excited.
- Speaks loudly and/or profanely (uses foul language).
- Throws objects.
- Giggles or laughs for no apparent reason.

Vision:

- Eyes glassy, dilated pupils, lack of focus
- Red or watery eyes.
- Droopy eyelids or tired appearance.
- Squints continuously.
- Closes or covers one eye to remove double vision.

Reflexes:

- Spills drink; misses mouth with glass
- Unable to pick up money or drops money; unable to count out correct amount for drink
- Sullen, doesn't want to communicate except to order drinks
- Slow or deliberate movements.
- Slow or no response to questions.
- Slow or no reaction to actions such as spilling a beer on oneself.

Manners & Appearance:

- Head bobs, eyelids drooping, looks sleepy
- Frequently rubs hands through face and hair.
- Sometimes has involuntary eye movement.
- Frequent trips to the bathroom.
- Strong, stale odor of alcohol.