

## Driving sober

By: Aaron Savage

*"I'm never going to drive drunk..."* That's what many people say to themselves at one point or another. But as life goes on and they come across different circumstances and their thoughts may change. If someone's thoughts change to something similar to, "I've only had one drink...", more than likely they have not experienced the sheer, life-threatening terror driving drunk can cause. Hopefully, the **"Save a Life Tour"** Drunk Driving Simulator will correct this problem.

According to the **"Save a Life Tour"** official website, "The National **'Save A Life Tour'** has been developed to provide a state-of-the-art, interactive driving experience that simulates driving under the influence of alcohol." This experience is significant because the drivers are sober and begin to realize the effects alcohol has on their driving skills.

The simulator is basically a set up of a car dashboard, driver's seat, pedals, and steering wheel. There are also three large screens. The one directly in front of the driver acts as the windshield, the two on the sides of the driver, acts as the left and right front windows.

When the simulator is activated a digital road appears on the screens, which the driver must navigate through. Sounds simple enough...but that's not all. Before the driver sits behind the wheel, their body weight and the amount of alcohol effecting their simulated driving session must be calculated into the simulator. According to the numbers fed into it, the simulator places delays in steering, effected pressure on the gas and brake pedals, and more problems similar to those one would face if they were really driving under the influence.

College Freshman Matt Osborne has experienced the simulator. "Seconds are longer than most people realize," he said. In Osborne's session he managed to avoid wrecking, but he had quite a few close calls. **He believes the simulator is "Super Effective" in teaching about how alcohol can change a person's reaction times.**

The **Save A Life Tour** is determined to teach kids how dangerous driving drunk can really be. Hopefully with this simulator kids can be more aware.

The simulator in action.

