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New Steering Wheel Sensor Checks Alcohol Level

Sourced From: Associated Press via New York Times, May 29, 2005

Situation

1. New \$600 sensor installed on steering wheel or in gloves tests skin to determine if driver too drunk
2. Device prevents vehicle from starting or running if driver is over legal alcohol limit
3. Inventor spent 12 years on sensor after then -teenage son crashed car while drunk

Significant Points

1. Device's skin sensor makes it different from "breath alcohol ignition interlock" on market for 3 decades
2. Inventor would like sensor to become standard feature on new vehicles
3. NHTSA says that may be difficult since majority of public doesn't drink and drive
4. Drunk driving killed estimated 16,654 people last year, nearly 40% of nation's total traffic deaths

Says

"I hope one day I'll get a call from some guy saying 'I was drunk and could've killed someone, but because of you, I couldn't start my car.'" -- Dennis Bellehumeur, device inventor

Web Source

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Smart-Steering-Wheel.html>

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