

Responsible Beverage Server Training

Summary Document

Overview and Objectives

Responsible Beverage Server Training (RBST) equips alcohol servers and event organizers with the knowledge and skills needed to serve alcohol safely and legally. The primary goal is to prevent overservice, underage drinking, and impaired driving incidents. This training also emphasizes protecting public safety while reducing legal and financial risks for businesses and event hosts.

1. Site and Operational Considerations

Effective planning and organization are critical for safe alcohol service, especially at large events or festivals.

- Controlled service areas such as beer gardens or tents
- Restrict access to individuals age 21+
- Security presence including law enforcement or trained staff
- No outside alcohol or open containers beyond designated areas

Staff roles should be separated for ID checks, wristbands, payment, and service.

2. Alcohol Use and Legal Responsibilities

Excessive alcohol use is a leading preventable cause of harm and contributes to crashes, injuries, and crime.

Servers and businesses are legally responsible for all alcohol served.

- Serving intoxicated individuals is illegal
- Providing alcohol to minors is strictly prohibited

Violations may result in fines, jail time, and civil liability under dram shop laws.

3. Alcohol Consumption and Impairment

Standard drink sizes: beer (12 oz), wine (5 oz), liquor (1.5 oz).

Alcohol takes about 1 hour to absorb and 1.5–2 hours to process per drink.

Signs of impairment include poor coordination, slurred speech, and impaired judgment.

Servers should refuse service when necessary, communicate with staff, document incidents, and involve authorities if needed.

Be aware of medical conditions that may mimic intoxication.

4. ID Checks and Sales Practices

Acceptable IDs include driver's licenses, state IDs, passports, military IDs, and tribal IDs.

Use the PLAN method: Photo, Legal age, Acceptable ID, Not expired.

If anything appears suspicious, do not complete the sale.

Check ID features such as holograms, barcodes, and physical characteristics.

Handle fake IDs according to policy and report when necessary.

Key Takeaways

- Responsible service protects customers and businesses
- Prevent underage drinking and overservice
- Always verify identification carefully
- Refuse service when necessary