Drug and Alcohol Impairment

Alabama DRE / SFST Program
WHAT IS A “DRUG”?

• Working Definition of “Drug”:
  • “Any substance that, when taken into the human body, can impair the ability of the person to operate a vehicle safely.”
ALCOHOL
THE MOST ABUSED DRUG

2016

• US Fatalities
  • Total – 37461
  • Alcohol – 12514
  • BAC 0.15 + – 7052

(MADD.ORG)
ALCOHOL
THE MOST ABUSED DRUG

2016

• Alabama Fatalities
  • Total – 1038
  • Alcohol – 321
  • BAC 0.15 + – 177

(MADD.ORG)
WHAT ABOUT DRUGS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL?

• About 4,000 drivers are killed each year with drugs in their systems. This doesn’t count those who had drugs in their system without test results, or those killed by drivers with drugs in their system. (NHTSA, 2010)

• 57% of fatally injured drivers had alcohol and/or other drugs in their system – 17% had both. (NHTSA, 2010)

• Almost 7% of drivers, mostly under age 35, who were involved in fatal traffic crashes tested positive for THC, the principle ingredient in marijuana. (NHTSA, 2010)

• More than a third of teens believe they drive better under the influence of marijuana. (Liberty Mutual/SADD)
In Two Years, Drugged Driving Deaths Rose While Drunk Driving Deaths Fell

- Christopher Jensen, Forbes, April 26, 2017

'Drugged driving' surpasses drunken driving among drivers killed in crashes, report finds

- Robert Jimison, CNN, April 28, 2017

Drugged driving eclipses drunken driving in tests of motorists killed in crashes

- Ashley Halsey III, The Washington Post, April 26, 2017
WHAT DO ALCOHOL AND DRUGS DO TO MY BODY?

• Slows reaction time
• Impairs judgement
• Impairs vision
• Impairs person’s ability to complete numerous tasks at the same time
• Affects coordination
• Affects person’s ability to process information
DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVING ON THE RISE

• Nationwide increase in people driving under the influence of drugs

• What is a drug?
  “Any substance that, when taken into the human body, can impair the ability to operate a motor vehicle safely”

• Legal vs Illicit drugs

• Availability of drugs compared to alcohol (especially among the younger)
What's a DRE?
DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT

- Officers trained in the detection of drivers who are under the influence of drugs besides alcohol
- 12 step post arrest evaluation in controlled environment
  - Field Sobriety tests
  - Eye examinations
  - Clinical signs
  - Signs of ingestion
- Valuable evidence in prosecution of impaired drivers as some drugs may be prescribed and not illegal to possess.
- No presumptive level for drugs, only impairment
- Assisting other agencies *
DRUG RECOGNITION TRAINING
104-120 HOURS

- ARIDE (Pre-Requisite) (16 Hours)
- Phase I - DRE Pre-School (16 hours)
- Phase II - DRE School (56 hours)
- Phase III – Field Certification (16-32 hrs)
- Re-Certification training every year (8 hrs)
DETERMINATIONS OF A DRE

• Is the subject impaired?

• Is it a medical condition or drug use that is causing the impairment?

• If drug related, the DRE determines the category of drug involved.
ORIGIN OF THE DEC PROGRAM

- Developed by members of LAPD in the early 70’s
- In 1979 the DRE program was in place with LAPD
- Standardized by NHTSA in 1987
7 DRUG CATEGORIES

- CNS Depressants
- CNS Stimulants
- Hallucinogens
- Dissociative Anesthetics
- Narcotic Analgesics
- Inhalants
- Cannabis
CNS DEPRESSANTS

- Alcohol
- Barbiturates
- Tranquilizers
- Chloral hydrate
- Ambien
- GHB
- Rohypnol
- Soma
CNS DEPRESSANTS

General Indicators
- Reduced ability to divide attention
- Disoriented
- Sluggish
- Thick, slurred speech
- Drunk-like behavior

Eye Indicators
- HGN = Present
- VGN = May be Present (High Dose)
- LOC = Present
- Pupil Size = Normal
CNS STIMULANTS

- Cocaine
- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine
- Ritalin
- Adderall
# CNS STIMULANTS

## General Indicators
- Restlessness
- Body tremors
- Excited
- Euphoria
- Talkative
- Exaggerated reflexes
- Anxiety
- Grinding teeth (bruxism)

## Eye Indicators
- HGN = Not Present
- VGN = Not Present
- LOC = Not Present
- Pupil Size = Dilated
HALLUCINOGENS

- LSD
- Peyote
- Mushrooms
- Ecstasy
- Bufo Alavarius
  - Toad licking
HALLUCINOGENS

General Indicators
- Hallucinations
- Paranoia
- Nausea
- Perspiring
- Dazed appearance
- Flashbacks
- Synesthesia (transposition of the senses)
- Uncoordinated
- Poor perception of time

Eye Indicators
- HGN= Not Present
- VGN= Not Present
- LOC= Not Present
- Pupil Size= Dilated
DISASSOCIATIVE ANESTHETICS

- PCP
- Super kools
- Sherm
- Ketamine (special k)
- Dextromethorphan (DXM)
## DISASSOCIATIVE ANESTHETICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Indicators</th>
<th>Eye Indicators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Perspiring</td>
<td>• HGN= Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Blank stare</td>
<td>• VGN= Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cyclic behavior</td>
<td>• LOC= Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chemical odor</td>
<td>• Pupil Size= Normal</td>
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<td>• Incomplete verbal responses</td>
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<td>• Warm to the touch</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Slurred and repetitive speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hallucinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Early angle of nystagmus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NARCOTIC ANALGESICS

- Heroin
- Morphine
- Opium
- Methadone
- Percodan
- Percocet
- Demerol
- Darvon
NARCOTIC ANALGESICS

General Indicators

• Droopy eyelids
• “On the nod”
• Drowsiness
• Depressed reflexes
• Dry mouth
• Slow, low, raspy speech
• Euphoria
• Puncture marks
• Itching

Eye Indicators

• HGN= Not Present
• VGN= Not Present
• LOC= Not Present
• Pupil Size= Constricted
INHALANTS

• Glue
• Gasoline
• Paint thinner
• Spray Paint
• Nitrous Oxide
• Scotchguard
• Freon
## INHALANTS

### General Indicators
- Confusion
- Flushed face
- Intense headaches
- Bloodshot, watery eyes
- Lack of muscle control
- Odor of inhaled substance
- Residue of substance around mouth and nose

### Eye Indicators
- HGN= Present
- VGN= Present (high dose)
- LOC= Present
- Pupil Size= Normal (possible dilation)
CANNABIS

- Marijuana
- Hashish
- Hash oil
- Marinol
- Spice / K2
CANNABIS

General Indicators
- Bloodshot eyes
- Odor of marijuana
- Marijuana debris in the mouth
- Body tremors
- Increased appetite
- Eyelid tremors
- Relaxed inhibitions

Eye Indicators
- HGN= Not Present
- VGN= Not Present
- LOC= Present
- Pupil Size= Dilated
12 Step Process

1. Breath Test
2. Interview of Arresting Officer
3. Preliminary Examination and First Pulse
4. Eye Examination
5. Divided Attention Tests:
   a. Romberg Balance
   b. Walk and Turn
   c. One Leg Stand
   d. Modified Finger to Nose
6. Vital signs and Second Pulse
7. Dark Room Check of Pupil Size and Ingestion Exam
   a. Room Light
   b. Near Total Darkness
   c. Direct Light
8. Check of Muscle Tone
9. Check for Injection Sites and Third Pulse
10. Interrogation, Statements, and Other Observations
11. Opinion of Evaluator
12. Toxicological Examination
Questions?