Observations of Drug Impaired Drivers

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How do I know it is drugs???

• Do not have to be a DRE to observe impairment on the roadside

• Treat like an alcohol DWI (note observations of impairment and administer SFSTs)

• Trust you instincts!!!
Phase One: Vehicle in Motion

Initial Observation of the Vehicle in Operation

Should I Stop the Vehicle?

Observation of the Stop
Most Common and Reliable Initial Indicators of DWI

- Problems maintaining proper lane position
- Speed and braking problems
- Vigilance problems
- Judgment problems
- Post stop clues
Problems Maintaining Proper Lane Position

- Weaving in lane
- Weaving across lane lines
- Drifting
- Straddling a lane line
- Swerving
- Almost striking object or vehicle
- Turning with a wide radius
Speed and Braking Problems

- Stopping problems
- Unnecessary acceleration or deceleration
- Varying speed
- 10 mph or more under the speed limit
Vigilance Problems

- Driving without headlights at night
- Failure to signal or signal inconsistent with action
- Driving in opposing lanes or wrong way on one way
- Slow response to traffic signals
- Slow or failure to respond to officer’s signals
- Stopping in lane for no apparent reason
Phase Two: Personal Contact

Interview and Observation of the Driver

Should Driver Exit?

Observation of the Exit
Post Stop Clues

- Difficulty with motor vehicle controls
- Fumbling with driver license or registration
- Difficulty exiting the vehicle
- Repeating questions or comments
- Swaying, unsteady, or balance problems
Post Stop Clues

- Leaning on the vehicle or other object
- Slurred speech
- Slow to respond to officer/officer must repeat
- Provides incorrect information, changes answers

- Observations of eyes
Personal Contact

What Do You See?

- Bloodshot Eyes?
- Soiled Clothing?
- Disheveled look?
- Fumbling Fingers?
- Bruxism (teeth grinding)?
- Unusual Actions?
- Bruises, Bumps, Scratches, Track Marks?
- Anything Else?
Personal Contact

**What Do You Hear?**

- Slurred Speech?
- Admission of Using?
- Inconsistent Responses?
- Unusual Statements?
- Abusive Language?
- Anything Else?
Personal Contact

What Do You Smell?

Marijuana?
Alpha-PVP?
“Cover-Up” Odors?
Other Unusual Odors?
Anything Else?
Pupil Size Observation

• The eyes are often referred to as “The windows to the soul”
Limits on Constriction and Dilation

- Recognize noticeable differences in the pupils

- Each of the seven drug categories has a predictable effect on the pupils
Documenting Observations on SFSTs

- HGN / VGN
- Walk and Turn
- One Leg Stand

The information collected at roadside is critical to the entire impaired driving enforcement process.
Psychophysical Tests

Methods of examining mental and/or physical impairment
Other Divided Attention Test

- Modified Romberg Balance Test
- Finger to Nose
- Alphabet
- Counting
## Relationships to the Categories

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<tr>
<td><strong>HGN</strong></td>
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<td>None</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VGN</strong></td>
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<td>None</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>Present (1)*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LOC</strong></td>
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<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pupil Size</strong></td>
<td>Normal (2)*</td>
<td>Dilated (4)*</td>
<td>Dilated (4)*</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Constricted</td>
<td>Normal (3)*</td>
<td>Dilated (4)*</td>
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1. *High dose for that individual
2. *Pupil size may be dilated for Soma, Quaaludes, and some anti-depressants
3. *Normal (average ranges) but may be dilated
4. *Dilated, but may be normal (average ranges)
Central Nervous System Depressants

- Alcohol
- Barbiturates
- GHB
- Anti-anxiety Tranquilizers
- Paxil
- Ambien
- Many Others
General Indicators of CNS Depressants

- Drowsiness
- Thick, slurred speech
- Uncoordinated
- Fumbling
- Slow, sluggish reactions
Central Nervous System Stimulants

- Cocaine
- Ritalin
- Amphetamines
- Khat
- Methamphetamine
- Adderall
General Indicators of CNS Stimulants

- Restlessness
- Anxiety
- Euphoria
- Talkativeness
- Excitation
- Bruxism
- Body tremors
- Exaggerated reflexes
- Loss of appetite

If subject snorts substance:
- Runny nose
- Redness to nasal area
Hallucinogens

- Peyote
- Psilocybin
- LSD
- MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Bufotenine
- ‘Plant Food/Bath Salts
- Salvia Divinorum
- NBOMe
General Indicators of Hallucinogens

- Dazed appearance
- Body tremors
- Perspiring
- Paranoia
- Disoriented
- Nausea
- Difficulty with speech
- Piloerection
- Statements suggesting hallucinations
Dissociative Anesthetics

PCP (Phencyclidine) and its Analogs

- Ketamine
- Dextromethorphan
- Ketaject
- Vetalar
- Xyrem
General Indicators of Dissociative Anesthetics

- Blank stare
- Loss of memory
- Perspiring heavily
- Warm to touch
- Incomplete, slurred verbal responses
- Cyclic behavior
- Agitated
- Rigid muscle tone
- Disoriented
- Nonresponsive
- Chemical odor
Narcotic Analgesics

- Heroin
- Oxycontin
- Morphine
- Codeine
- Vicodin
- Demerol
- Methadone
- Darvon
General Indicators of Narcotic Analgesics

- “Track marks”
- “On the nod”
- Slowed reflexes
- Low, slow, raspy speech
- Facial itching
- Dry mouth
- Euphoria
- Pupils visibly and obviously constricted
- Flaccid muscle tone
Inhalants

Gasoline
Glues
Paint (Toluene)
Hair Spray
Anesthetic Gases
General Indicators of Inhalants

- Odor of the inhaled substance
- Dizziness, numbness
- Possible traces of the substance around the face and nose
- Bloodshot, watery eyes
- Distorted perception of time and distance
- Confused, disoriented appearance
- Light headedness
- Flushed face, possible sweating
- Intense headaches
- Slow, thick, slurred speech
- Nausea
- Non communicative
- Floating sensation
Cannabis

- Marijuana
- Hashish
- Hashish Oil
- Marinol
- K2/Spice
General Indicators of Cannabis

- Odor of marijuana
- Impaired perception of time and distance
- Marked reddening of whites of eyes
- Body tremors
- Disorientation
- Impairs attention
- Relaxed inhibitions
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