DRUGS THAT IMPAIR DRIVING

PARTICIPANT'S MANUAL

HS 178B R2/06

SESSION I

INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW & DRUGS IN SOCIETY

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Upon successfully completing this session of, the participant will be able to:

o   State the goals and objectives of the course

o   Define the term "drug" in the context of DWI enforcement.

o   Name the seven categories of drugs.

o   Describe the observable signs generally associated with the seven drug
         categories.

o   Describe medical conditions and other situations that can produce similar
         signs.

Content Segments		Learning Activities	
A.	Overview	o	Instructor-Led Presentations
B.	Objectives	o	Instructor-Led Presentations
C.	Definition of a "Drug"	o	Instructor-Led Presentations
D.	Overview of the seven drug categories	o	Instructor-Led Presentations

A. Overview

This session is to improve your ability to recognize suspects who may be medically impaired or under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

Alcohol remains the most frequently abused drug. It is not uncommon for impaired drivers under the influence of alcohol to also be under the influence of other drugs at the same time.

It is likely that experienced police officers have encountered suspects who were under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. Depending upon the specific types of drugs the suspect has taken, some may appear similar to persons who are under the influence of alcohol. Other suspects will look and behave differently from the alcohol-impaired driver.

It is important that you be able to recognize suspects that may be under the influence of other drugs, so that you will know when to summon assistance from physicians, trained Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's) or other appropriate persons.

B. Goals and Objectives

1. Goal:

   a. To identify and apprehend individuals who are impaired by drugs.

2. Objectives:

   a. To recognize impairment associated with drug use.

   b. To define "drug" as it relates to highway safety.

   c. To identify the **seven drug categories** and recognize the major observable indicators.

   d. To successfully document the impaired driving arrest.

This session **will not** accomplish nor qualify you to perform the functions of a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). Officers become certified DRE's only upon completion of a very challenging program that includes nine days of classroom training and many weeks of closely supervised on-the-job training.

C. Definition of a "drug"

The word "drug" means many things to many people. The word is used in a number of different ways, by different people, to convey some very different ideas.

For example, the corner druggist and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are both concerned with "drugs", but they don't have exactly the same thing in mind when they use the word "drug". The druggist and DEA agent do not have the same perspective as the DWI enforcement officer.

For our purpose, a drug is:

"any substance, which when taken into the human body, can impair the ability of the person to operate a vehicle safely".

This definition excludes some substances that physicians consider to be drugs. This definition also includes some substances that physicians do not usually consider as a drug. Examples are airplane glue and paint.

Drugs are organized into seven categories based on the physiological effects that the drugs produce.

The seven drug categories:

Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants
Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants
Hallucinogens
Dissociative Anesthetics
Narcotic Analgesics
Inhalants
Cannabis

No one knows precisely how many people operate motor behicles while under the influence of drugs, or how many crashes, deaths and injuries these people cause. But even the most conservative estimates suggest that America's drug-impaired drivers kill thousands of people each year, and seriously injure tens of thousands of others. There are numerous studies that illustrate these facts. They include:

·   Maryland (1986) - 32 percent of crash-injured drivers had evidence of marijuana in their blood.

- University of Tennessee (1988) - 40 percent of crash-involved drivers treated at the University's Trauma Center had drugs other alcohol in their urine.

- NHTSA (Terhune, Ippolito, Hendricks et al,. 1992) - 1,882 operators involved in fatal crashes in three states were tested for alcohol and 43 other drugs. Alcohol was the most prevalent drug detected in 51.5 percent of the crashes, while other drugs were involved in 17.8 percent of the crashes.

- Washington State (Schwilke, et as 2006) - the results of tests of blood and/or urine from 370 fatally injured drivers revealed that marijuana was the most encountered drug (12 percent), followed by benzodiaepines (5.1 percent), cocaine (4.8 percent) and amphetamines (4.8 percent).

How about people who drive under the influence of alcohol and other drugs that are not involved in crashes? A 2002 survey (National Survey on Drug Use and Health) revealed that one in seven Americans aged 12 years or older (14.2 percent or 33.5 million people admitted driving under the influence of alcohol at least once in the past year. The same survey also revealed that in 2003, an estimated 19.5 million Americans , or 8.2 percent of the population aged 12 years or older, were current illicit drug users, and that marijuana was the most commonly used illicit drug, with a rate of 6.2 percent (14.6 million) in 2003.

Monitoring the Future, a national survey of high school students conducted in 2003 by the University of Michigan and the White House anti-drug czar's office concluded that one in six high school seniors had admitted to having driven while they were high on drugs.

In 2003, an estimated 11 million people reported driving under the influence of an illicit drug during the past year. As many as 18 percent of 21 year-olds reported having driven under the influence of drugs at least once during the past year. (NSDUH Report: Drugged Driving, 2003 Update)