

## ***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 your instincts!!!

# Phase One: Vehicle in Motion

Initial Observation  
of the Vehicle  
in Operation

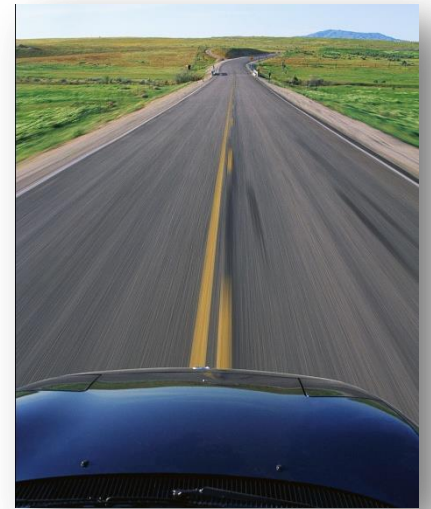


?



Observation of  
the Stop

*Should I Stop  
the Vehicle?*



# 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

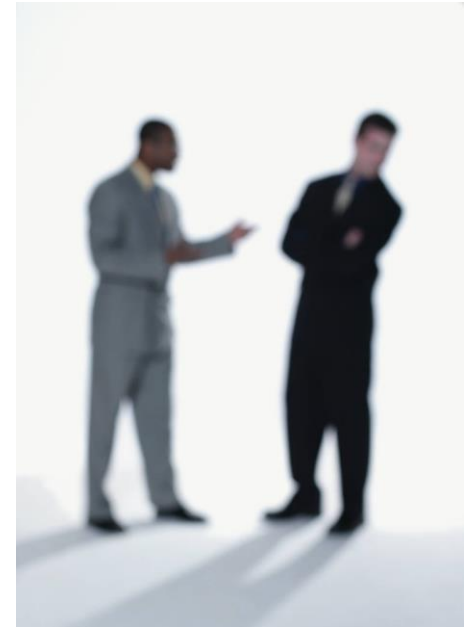


*Should  
Driver Exit?*

?



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?

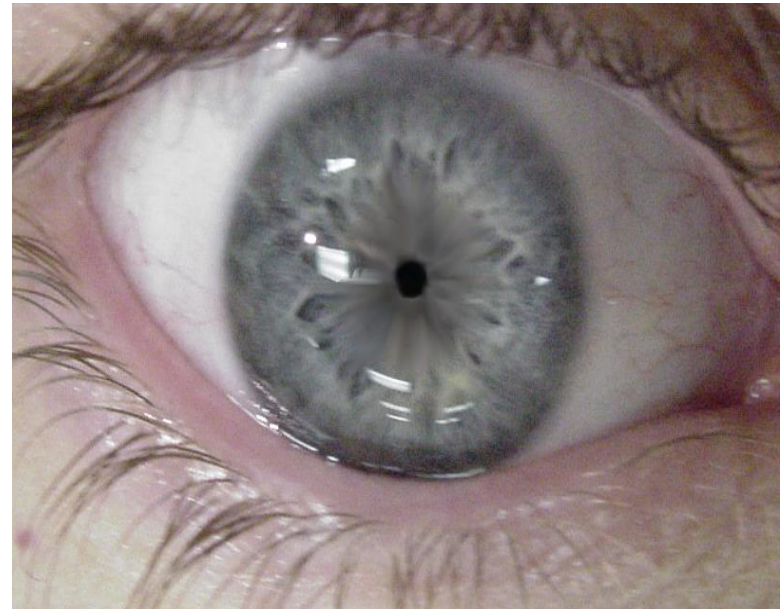
Other Unusual Odors?

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

	<b>CNS Dep.</b>	<b>CNS Stim.</b>	<b>Hall.</b>	<b>Dissoc. Anest.</b>	<b>Narc. Analg.</b>	<b>Inhalant</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>
<b>HGN</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>VGN</b>	<b>Present (1)*</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Present (1)*</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>LOC</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Pupil Size</b>	<b>Normal (2)*</b>	<b>Dilated (4)*</b>	<b>Dilated (4)*</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Constricted</b>	<b>Normal (3)*</b>	<b>Dilated (4)*</b>

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



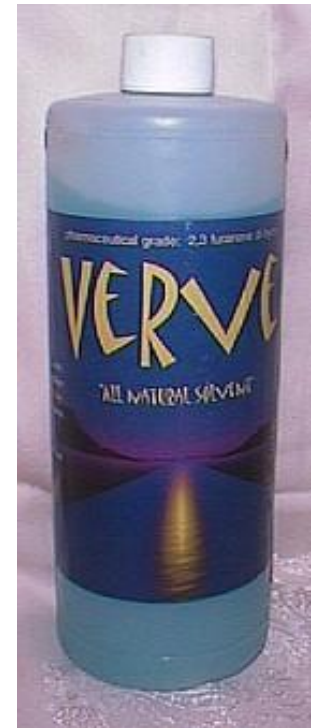
Alcohol  
Barbiturates  
GHB

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



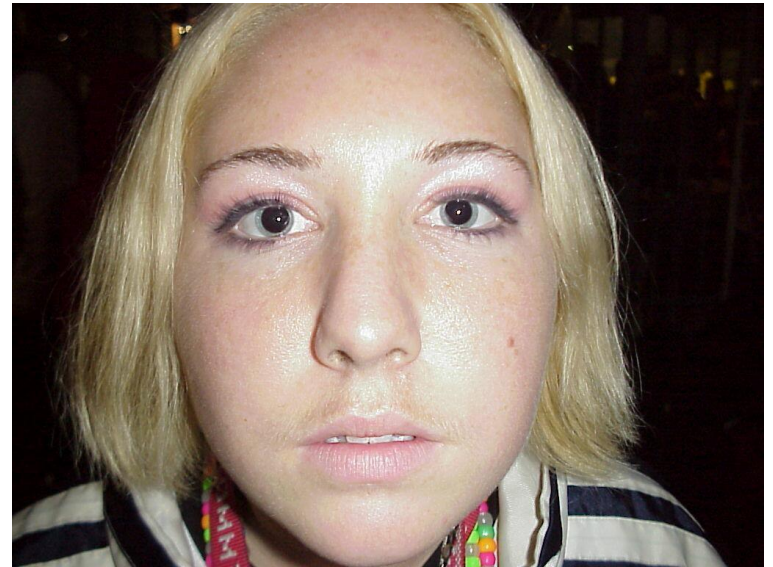
- Peyote
- Psilocybin
- LSD
- MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Bufotenine
- 'Plant Food/Bath Salts
- Salvia Divinorum
- NBOMe





# 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

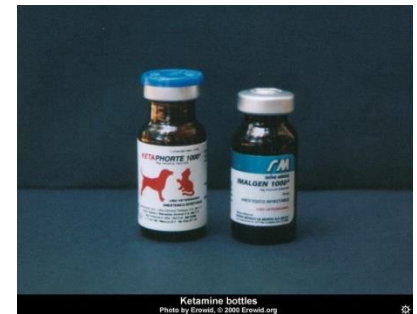
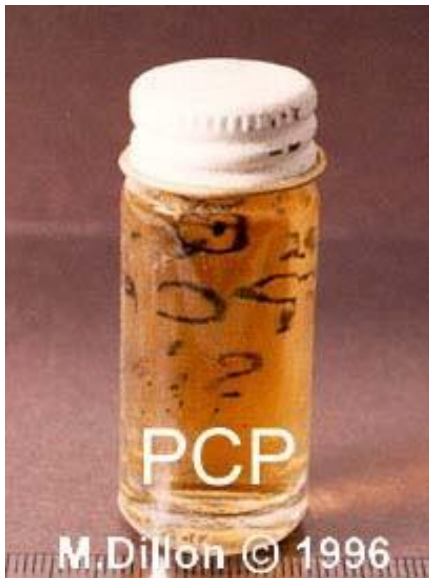
Ketamine

Dextromethorphan

Ketaject

Vetalar

Xyrem



Ketamine bottles  
Photo by Erenold, © 2008 Erenold.org



# 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

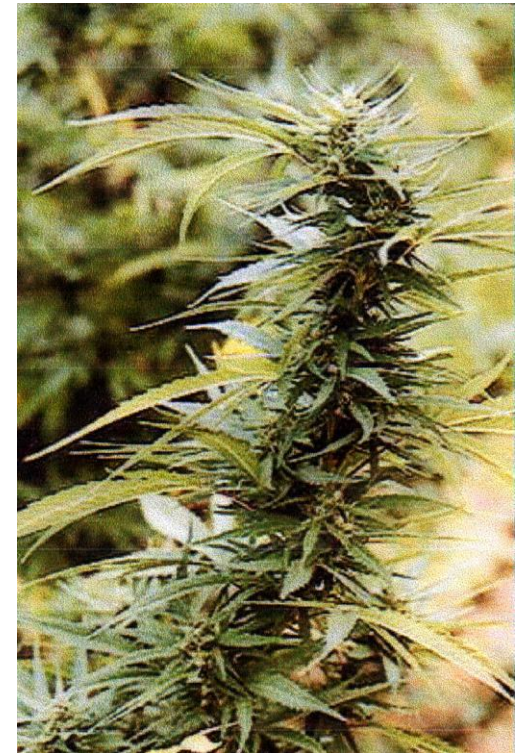


# General Indicators of Inhalants

- 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



# Contact Information:

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