IMPAIRED DRIVING ISSUES

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DRUG EVALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM STATE COORDINATOR
• OVER 10,000 IMPAIRED DRIVING CRASHES ON OUR HIGHWAYS EACH YEAR (27+ EACH DAY)

• NEARLY 300 FATALITIES EACH YEAR (IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES MAKE UP 26% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAFFIC DEATHS)

• NEARLY 50,000 PEOPLE ARE ARRESTED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)

• MORE THAN HALF OF THE DRIVERS ARRESTED FOR DUI – ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OTHER THAN OR IN COMBINATION WITH ALCOHOL
IMPAIRED DRIVING INVESTIGATIONS

• 3 PHASES OF DUI DETECTION
  • VEHICLE IN MOTION
    • CRASH
    • OPERATION OF THE VEHICLE
  • PERSONAL CONTACT
    • GENERAL BEHAVIORS
    • APPEARANCE
    • ABILITY TO DIVIDE ATTENTION
  • PRE-ARREST SCREENING
    • STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING
    • DRUG INFLUENCE EVALUATION
ALCOHOL

• In the event that DUI investigation techniques identify someone to be impaired and incapable of safe driving – they are placed under arrest and transported for chemical testing and processing.

• In the event that chemical testing reveals the impairment is not being caused by alcohol – additional evidence must be gathered in order to determine why the subject is impaired.
• DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS (DRE) ARE OFFICERS HIGHLY SKILLED AND TRAINED IN THE AREA OF DRUG IMPAIRMENT.

• IF A DRE IS AVAILABLE, THEY CONDUCT A 12 STEP SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION OF THE IMPAIRED SUBJECT TO GATHER ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE AND MAKE A DETERMINATION IF THE IMPAIRMENT IS BEING CAUSED BY A SPECIFIC DRUG CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES, OR IF THE SUBJECT IS EXPERIENCING A MEDICAL CONDITION WHICH IS MIMICKING IMPAIRMENT, OR THE IMPAIRMENT IS CAUSED BY ALCOHOL ONLY.

• IF A DRE IS NOT AVAILABLE – THE OFFICER MUST GATHER ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE TO REQUEST CHEMICAL TESTING FOR DRUGS
DRUG EVALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM (DECP)

• The DECP is coordinated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). All 50 states have an approved DECP.

• Each officer that successfully completes the vigorous training is certified as a DRE.

• The DECP started in California in the late 70s.

• Pennsylvania became the 39th state to be approved by the IACP to conduct the DECP in 2014.
• SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PA DECP, DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVING ARRESTS HAVE INCREASED MORE THAN 500%

• CURRENTLY 181 CERTIFIED DRES - 99 ARE PA STATE POLICE MEMBERS, 82 ARE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.

• AS THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS TRAINED AND CERTIFIED AS DRES INCREASES - THE NUMBERS OF DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVERS REMOVED FROM OUR HIGHWAYS ALSO INCREASES
• MANY PA POLICE OFFICERS ARE TRAINED BY DRES TO IDENTIFY DRUG IMPAIRED OPERATORS. THE TRAINING ENTITLED ADVANCED ROADSIDE IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT (ARIDE) PROVIDES OFFICERS WITH TOOLS AND EDUCATION TO BETTER IDENTIFY SUBJECTS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS

• AS THE POLICE OFFICER TRAINING IMPROVES, THE NUMBERS OF DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVERS IDENTIFIED ON OUR HIGHWAYS WILL CONTINUE TO CLIMB
INCREASING DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVERS...

- PRESCRIPTION DRUG INCREASES
- MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAWS
- RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LAWS
- LOOSENING OR RELAXING OF DRUG LAWS WITHIN EACH STATE – GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF DRUG USE AND DRUG USERS
QUESTIONS – COMMENTS – CONCERNS

Thanks so much for your attention

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