

Impaired Driving

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Road Map for Today

- Montana DUI Training
- Barriers
- Montana DUI Trends
- Drug Impaired Driving
- Looking into the future

Law Enforcement DUI Training

- 40 hours of training at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) curriculum is used
- Breath Test Specialist training is included at MLEA
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
 - Must be certified in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) to attend
- Drug Recognition Expert Training
 - Must be SFST and ARIDE certified to attend
- SFST Refresher Training
 - Many agencies have their officers participate in these
 - Provided to any agency in the state at their request

Additional DUI Training

- Educational Wet Labs
- Assisted with Prosecutor Boot Camp
- DUI / DRE presentation at the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Fall Conference
- Assisted Alcoholic Beverage Control with new alcohol server videos

Barriers

- Staffing / Funding
- Current DUI Laws
- Education / coordination of criminal justice professionals
- Jury Nullification

Montana Impaired Driving Trends

- Average BAC .189 for first two quarters of 2019
 - .484 the highest I have heard of so far this year
- Drug Impaired driving in on the rise
- Alcohol and drugs still common contributing factors in fatal crashes
 - 39.60% so for alcohol for 2019 through confirmed toxicology
 - 32.67% so for drugs for 2019 through confirmed toxicology

Drug Impaired Driving

- Increasing trend in Montana
- Depending on the substance being used drug impaired drivers do not look anything like alcohol impaired drivers
- The initial stages DUI processing for drugs is no different than alcohol
- Unlike alcohol there is not a “number” for drug impairment

Drug Impaired Driving

- Seven Drug Categories used for impaired driving enforcement
 - Central Nervous System Depressants
 - Central Nervous System Stimulants
 - Hallucinogens
 - Dissociative Anesthetics
 - Narcotic Analgesics
 - Inhalants
 - Cannabis
- There are many different drugs within each category
 - Several synthetic and natural (plants) drugs that are not scheduled fall within the categories as well
- They are categorized in this manner as the individual drugs within each category produce predictable results when taken to an impairing level

Montana Drug Impaired Driving

- Top 5 drugs in Montana through the first six months of 2019
 - Marijuana
 - Methamphetamine
 - Morphine
 - Diazepam (Valium)
 - Alprazolam (Xanax)
- Poly drug use
 - Using more than one drug in combination
 - Marijuana and alcohol are common mixers with other drugs
 - Depending on what drugs are combined the impairment / behavior can vary greatly

Drug Influence Evaluations

- 12 step standardized protocol used to aid DUI drug investigations
- DRE determines if they think the driver is impaired
 - Medical or drug impairment
- DRE will form an opinion of what category of drug(s) the individual is under the influence of

Looking to the Future

- Cannabis Legalization
 - National political action committee prepared spend three to six million dollars for a 2020 ballot initiative and constitutional amendment
 - More impaired drivers on the roadways
 - Studies from other states with legalization
 - Colorado, Washington, California
- 2021 Legislature
 - Attempt to revise and improve Montana's DUI laws

Contact Information

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