

Texas Impaired Driving Forum

April 26, 2017 • Norris Conference Center
2525 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 365 • Austin, Texas 78757

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Registration

9:00 – 9:20 AM

Welcome / Opening Remarks

Terry Pence, Traffic Safety Director, Texas Department of Transportation

Troy Walden, Director of the Center for Alcohol and Drug Education Studies, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

9:20 – 9:40 AM

NHTSA Update

Sam Sinclair, Regional Program Manager, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

This presentation will include an update on national impaired driving initiatives.

9:40 – 10:00 AM

Impaired Driving: A Data Snapshot

Paige Ericson-Grabber, Assistant Transportation Researcher, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

This presentation will provide a snapshot of 2016 impaired driving crash data in Texas.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION #1

Drug Track

Effects of Drugs on Human Performance and Driving

Don Egdorf, Police Officer, Houston Police Department

A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is a police officer trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. A DRE is skilled in detecting and identifying persons under the influence of drugs and in identifying the category or categories of drugs causing the impairment. This presentation will focus on the effects of drugs on human performance and the resulting effects it has on motor vehicle operation as told through the experiences of a DRE instructor.

Alcohol Track

After the Crash: Injuries Sustained from DWI Crashes

Jayson D. Aydelotte, M.D., FACS, General Surgeon, University Medical Center at Brackenridge

This presentation will address some of the most common injuries from DWI crashes. The presenter will also discuss variance in patient outcomes from DWI and non-DWI crashes.

Regional Impaired Driving Challenges: A Multi-Stakeholder Perspective

David Hodges, Visiting Judge

Karen Peoples, Traffic Safety Specialist – Lubbock District, Texas Department of Transportation

Richard Mabe, Detective, Austin Police Department

Jessica Frazier, Assistant District Attorney, Bexar County District Attorney's Office

This panel of experts will share some of the regional challenges they've face in combatting impaired driving and then discuss ways that their organizations are addressing those challenges. The panel will also discuss how each of their roles are impacted by the roles of their fellow panel members, and how each role plays a part in eliminating impaired driving on Texas roadways.

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11:45 – 12:45 PM

Lunch and Keynote Address

Commandant Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Texas A&M University

12:45 – 1:00 PM

Break

1:00 – 2:30 PM

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION #2

Drug Track

Legalized Recreational Marijuana in Other States: What Does It Mean for Texas?

Jennifer Knudsen, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Colorado District Attorneys' Council

Courtney Popp, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Washington State Patrol

Suzie Price, Senior Deputy District Attorney, Orange County (CA) District Attorney's Office

Marijuana is the most commonly detected non-alcohol drug in drivers. The states of Colorado, Washington, and California have recently legalized recreational marijuana. In this panel, prosecutors from states where recreational marijuana has been legalized will discuss some of their experiences and challenges in prosecuting drug-impaired driving cases, and how it has impacted adjudication of these cases. The panel will also discuss what lessons Texas can learn from their experiences, so Texas can be better prepared should recreational marijuana become legalized in the state.

Alcohol Track

The "Ins and Outs" of Supervising DWI Offenders

Bill Hill, Staff Development Supervisor, Williamson County Adult Probation (CSCD)

This presentation will discuss "best practices" for Community Supervision and Corrections Department, also known as probation, Officers. This information is intended to better assist CSCD officers by providing practical information on monitoring practices. The information is also intended for those stakeholders wanting to learn more information about what probation officers can and cannot do in terms of monitoring offenders.

DWI Monitoring and Technology

Debra Coffey, Vice President – Government Affairs, Smart Start, Inc.

An ignition interlock is an electronic device wired into the ignition system of a vehicle which requires the user to pass a breath alcohol test in order to start the vehicle. This presentation will discuss interlock technical standards, device features, and how this technology is used to monitor DWI offenders. The presenter will also share future technologies and applications, alternative alcohol monitoring technology such as SCRAM and IN HOM, and advances in drug testing through intelligent fingerprint.

Treatment for DWI Offenders: What's Being Done?

Cynthia Humphrey, Executive Director, Association of Substance Abuse Programs

This presentation will provide a general perspective on screening, assessment, and treatment of DWI offenders. The presenter will discuss what's working in terms of screening and treatment, what's not working in terms of screening and treatment, and how to help this population move forward.

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2:30 – 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 – 3:45 PM

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION #3

Drug Track

Marijuana: Where do Texans Stand?

Jena Prescott, Assistant Transportation Researcher, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

As the country moves towards relaxed marijuana use and possession laws, more knowledge is needed to fully grasp the impact of marijuana use on traffic safety. This presentation will provide preliminary results from a survey that investigated the current attitudes of Texans on marijuana use. The survey was distributed to residents in the top 25 Texas counties with the highest number of fatal DUI crashes.

More than Alcohol: A Look at “Other Drugs” Contributing to the DWI Safety Challenge

Jake Nelson, Traffic Safety Advocacy and Research Director, AAA

This presentation will discuss national over-the-counter and prescription drugs use and trends, and how over-the-counter and prescription drugs impact driving. The presenter will also discuss countermeasures to reduce drug-impaired driving.

Alcohol Track

Are Texans Using Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)?

Eva Shipp, Research Scientist, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Companies such as Uber and Lyft represent a rapidly growing segment of the transportation industry. This type of on-demand service could be useful for reducing the number of instances when people choose to drive after drinking alcohol or using other drugs. The presenter will discuss results from a project that looked at why people currently choose to use TNCs instead of driving after drinking, what factors might keep people from using TNCs, and what factors may incentivize others to use TNCs.

How Austin Promotes Safe Rides Home

Jason Redfern, Parking and Enforcement Division Manager, City of Austin

The best and most responsible thing to do to keep yourself and others safe is to plan ahead before heading out for a night on the town. The City of Austin encourages safe rides home through their “park downtown overnight” initiative. Through this initiative, the City waives tickets for those individuals who parked downtown overnight but made the responsible decision of taking a taxi or bus home. This presentation will further discuss the initiative and its impact in the City of Austin.

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Closing Remarks and Questions

Troy Walden, Director of the Center for Alcohol and Drug Education Studies, Texas A&M Transportation Institute