



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter




TABC TRACE Program

Article derived from an interview with Captain David Whitt of the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission.

The Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission (TABC) manages a program called Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE). TRACE is a law enforcement operation that investigates the source of alcohol service when crimes involve serious injury or death. These crimes can include motor vehicle crashes, homicides, sexual assaults, or other crimes where alcohol was a contributing factor.

This program was managed on a regional level until January of 2021, when TABC centralized the division under one command. There are nine investigators that are primary focused on the major metropolitan areas of Texas. When they are contacted by local law enforcement, the investigators are dispatched to help investigate the case. There is a hotline available for law enforcement to place a phone call to TABC TRACE investigators at 833-TABCLAW, if they do not have a direct contact. The ultimate goal is to foster relationships with local law enforcement agencies so they will have a direct line of contact.



Annually in Texas there are approximately 3,200–3,500 fatalities per year of which 33% are alcohol involved.

The investigations typically begin quickly (within 12 hours) after the crimes have occurred. Investigators will work to determine if a licensed TABC establishment was involved in the service or sale of alcohol to the individual who committed the crime. They will collect videos, receipts, and witness statements from the establishment and turn



the evidence over to local law enforcement. This evidence enhances law enforcement’s case when it is heard by the court.

TABC officers will also file criminal charges against a server or seller who is found to be negligent in overservice to an intoxicated patron, or sales to a minor. This charge is a Class A misdemeanor and can result in 180 days to 1 year in jail, fines, or both. TABC can also imposed administrative sanctions to the owner of the establishment. Those penalties can range from advising, in the instance of a restrained case, to fines, to complete revocation, based on the history of violations and the severity of the case.

When these cases are taken to court, local law enforcement will assist the prosecution in providing evidence for crimes such as intoxication manslaughter, intoxication assault, or homicide. In these cases, TABC investigators may be called as a witness. When a Class A misdemeanor is filed against an employee of a TABC licensed facility, TABC will be the one to bring forward the evidence to the court.

A restrained administrative case refers to a legal presumption that an employee’s actions will not be attributed to the





Continued: TABC TRACE Program

business of the employer, otherwise called [Safe Harbor](#). These enforcement actions can occur at an on-premise sale location such as a bar or restaurant, as well as an off-premise location, in the case of a retail location, when the alcohol is sold to a visibly intoxicated customer or alcohol is sold to a minor. There are graduated sanctions for repeat offenses based on the [TABC penalty chart](#).

Annually in Texas there are approximately 3,200-3,500 fatalities per year of which 33% are alcohol involved. TABC conducts assessments in approximately 1,100-1,200 of those cases and actively investigates about 200-300 complaints. Complaints are allegations of overservice or sale to a minor in which a formal, full-length investigation is required. The move to a centralized command has helped the TRACE program to be more successful. TABC has opened between 250-300 cases this year and is finding violations in approximately 25% of complaints investigated.



[The TABC TRACE program earned the Outstanding Agency Award from the Texas Department of Transportation \(TxDOT\) and the Southeast Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving \(MADD\)](#). Other strong supporters of the program include prosecutors, Sean Teare of the Harris County District Attorney's Office, and Joe Gonzales of the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. Law enforcement also has strong support for the program from Department of Public Safety Director, Colonel Steven McCraw and Houston Chief of Police, Troy Finner. These individuals and organizations understand the value of TABC's role in holding server/sellers accountable for overservice and sales to minors when it impacts public safety. Please see the Public Service Announcement [here](#).

News Articles that include TABC's TRACE program investigations:

- [TABC Joins Investigation into Off-duty Euless Officer Death by Alleged Drunk Driver](#)
- [Austin Bartender Charged with Overserving Driver Accused of Crashing into a Pedestrian, Driving with Body](#)
- [TABC: Sold Alcohol to Intoxicate Man, wreck killed Thin Blue Line Motorcyclists](#)
- [4 Charged in Suspected Drunken Driving Crash that Killed Clear Lake Mom, Baby](#)

Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs

The updated 2021 TxIDTF Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs, K-12 Grades is complete! The updated version of the reference book includes new evidence-based and TxDOT-funded programs, as well as content updates to existing programs. The purpose of this reference book is to provide Texas K-12th grades with current, impaired driving information for inclusion in health and other curriculum. This reference book provides an overview of alcohol and drug prevention programs that vary in cost, time, and materials so that you can select the program that is best suited for the needs of your students, staff, and schools. Additionally, a condensed version of the reference book is also available, which gives a concise overview of each program.

Access these great resources on the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force website here: www.texasimpaireddrivingtaskforce.org/referencebook.





2022 Texas Impaired Driving Forum

The 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Forum will be held on Wednesday, February 23, from 9:00 AM – 2:15 PM. Due to ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we will be holding the Forum virtually. Don't let "virtual meeting fatigue" keep you from joining us this year to address impaired driving safety in Texas and beyond! Although we'll miss seeing everyone in person, we are looking forward to gathering together and exchanging knowledge and ideas for eliminating impaired driving. Here is what you can expect from the 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Forum:

- **Free of Cost.** Through funding and support from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Texas Impaired Driving Forum has been offered free of cost since its inception. Help us spread the word and invite your colleagues and networks to join us!
- **Concurrent Breakout Sessions.** Customize your experience at the Forum by attending sessions that are relevant to your background or interest you. And, if choosing between sessions is difficult, all session will be recorded and made available at a later time.
- **Impaired Driving Safety Awards.** Each year, the [Texas Impaired Driving Task Force \(TxIDTF\)](#) honors individuals and organizations who are going "above and beyond" their job duties to truly impact impaired driving in Texas. Wondering who's been selected to receive the 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Safety Champion award? Help us recognize and honor these folks when all will be revealed the day of the Forum!
- **Networking and Forming New Partnerships.** There will be a networking opportunity available during lunch from Noon – 1 PM to interact with other attendees in real-time.

Click [here](#) to register and view the program agenda!



TxIDTF Membership Announcements

U in the Driver Seat: Call for Presenters

- Are you or someone you know interested in presenting at the upcoming U in the Driver Seat (UDS) Symposium? To apply please use the [Presenter Application](#) – the deadline to submit a presenter application is January 24, 2022.
- The UDS Symposium will be an in-person event on **April 29 & 30, 2022** at the Norris Conference Center, Austin, Texas. The theme is **Back to the Driver Seat**. To learn more, visit the [UDS Symposium](#) page.



Our Driving Concern: Texas Employer Traffic Safety Award

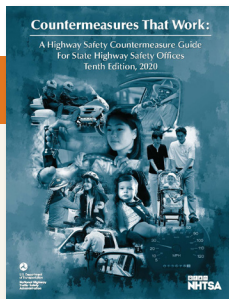
- The National Safety Council's **Our Driving Concern** program honors Texas employers through an awards recognition program. Awards are presented to Texas businesses that demonstrate their commitment to driver and transportation safety.
- Visit <https://nsc.submittable.com/submit/209346/2022-our-driving-concern-texas-employer-traffic-safety-award> to apply! Application deadline is February 28, 2022.





RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESOURCES

- [Rocky Mountain HIDTA: The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: *The Impact, 2021*](#)
- [Countermeasures That Work, 10th Edition](#)



RECENTLY PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS AND STUDIES

- [Prevalence of adolescent cannabis vaping: A systematic review and meta-analysis of US and Canadian studies](#)
- [Online surveillance of novel psychoactive substances \(NPS\): Monitoring Reddit discussions as a predictor of increased NPS-related exposures](#)
- [Recommendations for toxicological investigation of drug-impaired driving and motor vehicle fatalities – 2021 update](#)

WELCOME!

Please welcome our new members:

Brittany Hansford
Assistant District Attorney,
Montgomery County
District Attorney's Office

Sarah Martinez
Program Director, Travis County
Attorney's Office – Underage
Drinking Prevention Program



RECENT NEWS

Texas News

- [Biden's infrastructure plan will set aside about \\$35 billion for Texas projects](#)
- [Photos show over a ton of meth, cocaine seized in Texas worth \\$53m](#)
- [A jury awarded the family of two drunk driving victims more than \\$301 billion, but they don't anticipate seeing any of it](#)
- ['I can't believe they were all drunk,' says witness following the arrest of 3 suspects in fatal Dallas Crash](#)

National News

- [Alcohol and cannabis sales across Canada rose by over \\$2.6B during the pandemic, study suggests](#)
- [California legalized weed five years ago. Why is the illicit market still thriving?](#)
- [Automakers must install technology in new cars to combat drunk driving, Congress mandates](#)
- [Opioid prescriptions fell over past decade while drug overdose deaths climbed: AMA report](#)
- [Vaping marijuana by teens doubles in last seven years, with potentially harmful consequences, study says](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



JANUARY

- [TxSFST: Sunnyvale 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
January 17 | Sunnyvale Town Hall
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 18 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [TxSFST: San Patricio 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
January 18 | San Patricio County Sheriff's Office
- [TxSFST: Sunnyvale 8-HR Advanced DWI Course](#)
January 18 | Sunnyvale Town Hall
- [TxSFST: Hutto 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)
January 18 | Hutto, Texas
- [Texas DRE: Harris County Drug Recognition Expert Recertification](#)
January 19 | Harris County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 19 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas FRIDAY: ADAPT 4-HR Course](#)
January 19 | Virtual
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 20 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
January 20
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 21 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 24 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 25 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [ODC: Transportation Safety: Changing Norms and Decreasing Risk Webinar](#)
January 25 | Virtual
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 26 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [TxSFST: Houston 8-HR SFST Refresher](#)
January 26 | Houston Community College
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 27 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas FRIDAY: Austin FRIDAY Course](#)
January 27 | Office of the Inspector General
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
January 28 | Dallas County Sheriff's Academy
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
January 29
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [Texas DRE: San Antonio Drug Recognition Expert Basic Certification](#)
January 31 | San Antonio Police Academy
- [TxSFST: Denton 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)
January 31 | Denton Public Safety Training Center



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- [TxSFST: Elgin 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
February 1 | Elgin Police Department
- [Texas FRIDAY: Aransas Pass FRIDAY Course](#)
February 1 | Aransas Pass Civic Center
- [Texas FRIDAY: Houston FRIDAY Course](#)
February 1 | Harris County Constable's Office Pct. 6
- [Texas FRIDAY: Houston FRIDAY Course](#)
February 2 | Harris County Constable's Office Pct. 6
- [Texas FRIDAY: San Antonio DITEP 2-Day Training](#)
February 3-4 | Education Service Center 20
- [ODC: ODC FastPass Webinar](#)
February 3 | Virtual
- [TxSFST: Kilgore 50-HR SFST Instructor Course](#)
February 7 | East Texas Police Academy
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
February 7 | Dallas County Constable's Office
- [Texas FRIDAY: Dallas FRIDAY Course](#)
February 8 | Dallas County Constable's Office
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
February 9
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [Texas FRIDAY: Edinburg DITEP 2-Day Training](#)
February 10-11 | Education Service Center 1
- [TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
February 10 | Tarrant County College Northwest Campus
- [ODC: Coaching the Coach Webinar](#)
February 10 | Virtual
- [TxSFST: Amarillo 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
February 11 | Amarillo College
- [TxSFST: Live Oak 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
February 14 | Live Oak Police Department
- [TxSFST: League City 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)
February 15 | League City Police Department



- [Texas FRIDAY: Belton FRIDAY Course](#)
February 15 | Central Texas Council of Governments
- [ODC: Opioids and Driving Don't Mix Webinar](#)
February 16 | Virtual
- [Texas FRIDAY: Cypress ADAPT Course](#)
February 18 | Cypress Fairbanks ISD PD
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
February 19
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [TxSFST: Abilene ARIDE Course](#)
February 21 | Abilene Police Department
- [TxSFST: Silsbee 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
February 22 | Silsbee Police Department
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
February 22
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [Texas DRE: San Antonio Drug Recognition Expert Recertification](#)
February 23 | San Antonio Police Training Academy
- [TxIDTF: Texas Impaired Driving Forum](#)
February 23 | Virtual



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- [Texas FRIDAY: San Antonio DITEP Course](#)
March 2 | Education Service Center 20
- [Texas FRIDAY: Cottonwood Shores FRIDAY Course](#)
March 2 | City of Cottonwood Shores
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
March 5
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
March 9
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [ODC: DOT Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing – Better Understanding Yields Better Compliance Webinar](#)
March 9 | Virtual
- [TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
March 10 | Tarrant County College



- [Texas DRE: Eules Drug Recognition Expert Recertification](#)
March 21 | Eules Police Department
- [ODC: Alcohol and Inhalants: A DITTE Deep Dive Webinar](#)
March 23 | Virtual
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
March 24
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu
- [TxSFST: Hurst ARIDE Course](#)
March 28 | Hurst Police Department
- [ODC: What Matters Most – Focus on the Drive](#)
March 30 | Virtual
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension: Red Class](#)
March 30
To register, please email: Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu



If you would you like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to c-adams@tti.tamu.edu or e-shields@tti.tamu.edu by May 1, 2022.

Submissions are due the 1st of each newsletter month, and will be distributed next on May 15, 2022.