



# IMPAIRED DRIVING

*Task Force Newsletter*



**Save a Life™**  
Texas Department of Transportation

## At the November 2, 2023 meeting of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force, members discussed the following topics:

### **Law Enforcement Set to Surge for Holiday Season**

TxDOT Law Enforcement Program Manager, Larry Krantz, announced that nearly 50 proposals were received for the Impaired Driving Mobilization program. The enforcement periods will be the Winter Holiday Season, Spring Break, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

### **Impairment Reporting Enhancements Coming to Crash Form**

TxDOT Crash Data & Analysis Section Director, Jim Markham, discussed upcoming revisions to the CR-3 form. The updated crash report form will be electronic and self-building. This will increase the efficiency of the form and also

allow for new fields to be added. Revisions to the form are expected by 1/1/25.

### **Forensic Testing**

Texas DPS – Crime Labs has over 50,000 blood kits that lack authorization for disposal. All blood kits must be refrigerated until disposed, which is creating overcrowding in storage facilities. Senate Bill 335 allows for prosecutors to grant destruction authorization, in addition to judges. Texas DPS – Crime Labs is asking prosecutors to help authorizing the disposal of blood kits that are no longer needed. For a list of cases awaiting destruction in your jurisdiction, contact your [local DPS lab](#).



### **TxIDTF Subcommittees**

#### **Legislative**

The Legislative Subcommittee has been monitoring impaired-driving legislation. The following bills have been signed into law. For a more detailed analysis of these bills, please view the [88th Texas Legislature Bill Summaries](#).

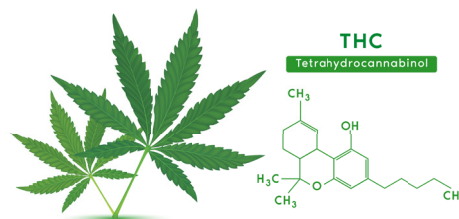
- **HB 291:** Relating to occupational driver's licenses and to the renewal of driver's licenses. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **HB 393:** Relating to restitution payments for the support of a child whose parent or guardian is a victim of intoxication manslaughter. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **HB 420:** Relating to the offense of providing an alcoholic beverage to a minor; increasing a criminal penalty. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **HB 1163:** Relating to creating the criminal offense of boating while intoxicated with a child passenger; changing the eligibility for deferred adjudication community supervision. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **HB 3186:** Relating to youth diversion strategies and procedures for children accused of certain fine-only offenses in municipal and justice courts and related criminal justice matters; authorizing fees. *Effective on 1/1/24.*
- **HB 4528:** Relating to the requirement that a peace officer take possession of a person's driver's license following the person's failure to pass or refusal to consent to a test for intoxication. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **HB 5183:** Relating to educational programs for persons whose driver's license is suspended following conviction of certain drug offenses. *Effective 9/1/23.*
- **SB 760:** Relating to taking a blood specimen from the body of a deceased person during an inquest. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **SB 773:** Relating to access to certain investigational drugs, biological products, and devices used in clinical trials by patients with severe chronic diseases. *Effective immediately.*



### Research

The Research Subcommittee reviewed the article – *Evaluation of Field Sobriety Tests for Identifying Drivers Under the Influence of Cannabis: A Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT)*. View the entire article review on the TxIDTF website [here](#).

- Study Objective: Examination of the classification accuracy of drug recognition expert officer-administered field sobriety tests to assess (1) cannabis exposure and (2) driving simulator impairment.
- The RCT design is rare in traffic safety research and lends credibility to the study from other researchers. However, the RCT design is not representative of real-world conditions that play a large factor in traffic safety.
- Study Outcomes:
  - THC groups were more likely to be classified as impaired on the FST at 1, 2, and 3hrs post-smoking.
  - High false positive rate (49%) for placebo group, greater than in previous reports with untrained officers (35% and 16%).
  - Group differences in FST not due to differences in group demographics or prior THC use patterns.
  - Walk & Turn, One Leg Stand significantly related to poor simulator driving.
  - FST performance improved over time (practice effects, recovery from THC).



### Language Barriers

Judge Matthew Hand, Potter County Court at Law #2, raised an important issue: DWI Education is a probation requirement for intoxication related offenses, but courses are only available in English and Spanish. It is not equitable to waive the requirement for non-English/Spanish speaking populations.

Although, Judge Hand was specifically raising this issue for the large Burmese and Somali refugee populations who have settled in Amarillo, there are other non-English/Spanish speaking populations to consider across the state. The TxIDTF convened a subcommittee to further discuss the issue of equity in DWI Education probation requirements for non-English/Spanish speakers. The subcommittee is exploring the following alternative solutions, with the aim of reducing recidivism by increasing attendance in these educational courses.

1. Translator Services
2. Machine Translation and Interpretation Software/Hardware
3. Self-directed and online training

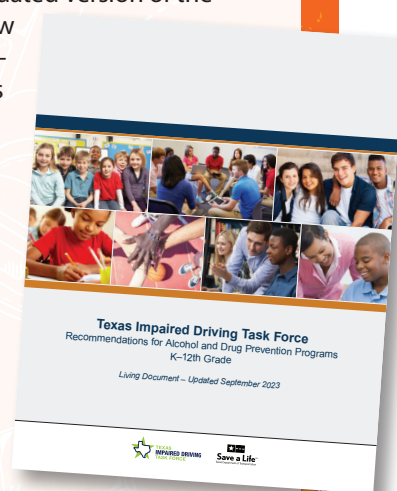


### Prevention

The updated 2023 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.

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





### **Cannabis and Alcohol Sold in Combination**

Data provided by LEADRS and the DRE program emphasized that more drivers are under the influence of cannabis and CNS stimulants than law enforcement detect. Additional data provided by the CRIS data system shows that cannabis is the most common drug detected with alcohol in KA crashes; Cannabis is present in 28.2% of KA crashes with alcohol-involved. Alcohol increases the absorption of all forms of THC, potentially leading to a considerably enhanced high. Consuming hemp derived THC and alcohol at the same time can exacerbate alcohol's judgment-impairing effects.

The TxIDTF has identified over 40 business in Texas that are selling THC (derivatives allowed through a loophole in the Farm Bill) and alcohol in combination. States that allow Adult-Use, Onsite Cannabis Consumption strictly prohibit alcohol and cannabis to be sold at the same location. In some adult

use states businesses cannot hold both a liquor license and a cannabis license. The TxIDTF has convened a subcommittee to

work on proposed regulations/educational materials, for consideration, on the issue of businesses selling cannabis and alcohol in combination.



Texas Statewide  
**IMPAIRED**  
DRIVING FORUM

### **2024 Texas Impaired Driving Forum**

The 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Forum will be held on Feb. 21, 2024, at the [Austin Southpark Hotel](#), 4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX 78744.

The Forum is a 1-day event that is FREE and open to all audiences. The Forum provides the opportunity to foster partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders interested in combatting impaired driving in Texas. You can find more event information on the TxIDTF website [here](#).

**REGISTER NOW**



### **Specialty Courts Funding**

Specialty courts, including DWI Courts, are effective at reducing recidivism. However, they are costly and adequate funding for specialty courts is a significant barrier. To help address this funding issue, The 87th Texas Legislature passed [House Bill 1256](#). This bill requires 1% tax on some mixed beverages to be allocated to Specialty Courts. The specialty courts outlined in this law include: Adult Drug Courts, Veterans Court, CSEP Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Family Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Public Safety Specialty Court. While DWI courts are allowed to apply for funding, they are not specifically named in the law, and it is unclear if this affects the monies awarded to this type of specialty court.

Funding for specialty courts through the General Revenue Account 5184, created as part of HB 1256, also includes funding for the evaluation of these courts. Peer reviews and evaluations of specialty courts creates accountability for courts. If run improperly, the courts can actually cause harm. Process evaluations of specialty courts should be utilized to measure efficiency, efficacy, and achievement of



program goals. Evaluation of DWI Courts is also a NHTSA Recommendation from [the 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Assessment](#). Judge Rainey, who serves on the Specialty Court Advisory Council that evaluates grant applications, has agreed to communicate with the TxIDTF to include the peer reviews/evaluations in the 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Plan.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DECEMBER

- [MADD: Walk Like MADD Beaumont](#)  
December 16 | Lumberton, TX
- [Texas DRE: Irving – ARIDE Course](#)  
December 18–19 | Irving, TX
- [TxSFST: Alton 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)  
December 18–20 | Alton, TX
- [TxSFST: La Porte 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)  
December 19–21 | La Porte, TX



## JANUARY

- [TRB: 103rd Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting](#)  
January 7–11 | Washington, D.C.
- [Texas DRE: Round Rock – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\)](#)  
January 8 | Round Rock, TX
- [Texas DRE: Houston – ARIDE Course](#)  
January 8–9 | Houston, TX
- [TxSFST: Katy 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)  
January 8–10 | Katy, TX
- [ODC: Drug and Alcohol Testing Webinar](#)  
January 9 | Virtual
- [TxSFST: Pflugerville 8-HR Advanced DWI Course](#)  
January 12 | Pflugerville, TX
- [TxSFST: Hutto 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)  
January 16–18 | Hutto, TX
- [TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
January 17 | Fort Worth, TX
- [Texas DRE: Galveston – ARIDE Course](#)  
January 17–18 | Galveston, TX
- [Texas DRE: Irving – ARIDE Course](#)  
January 18–19 | Irving, TX
- [Texas DRE: Southlake – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\)](#)  
January 29 | Southlake, TX
- [TxSFST: Dimmitt County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
January 30 | Dimmitt, TX
- [Texas DRE: Hays County Sheriff's Office – ARIDE Course](#)  
January 30–31 | San Marcos, TX





## FEBRUARY

- [TxSFST: Medina 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
February 1 | Hondo, TX
- [Texas DRE: Round Rock – ARIDE Course](#)  
February 1–2 | Round Rock, TX
- [TxSFST: Pflugerville 8-HR Advanced DWI Course](#)  
February 2 | Pflugerville, TX
- [TxSFST: Flower Mound 8-HR Advanced DWI Course](#)  
February 8 | Flower Mound, TX
- [TxSFST: Roman Forest 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
February 13 | Roman Forest, TX
- [Texas DRE: Aransas Pass – ARIDE Course](#)  
February 13–14 | Aransas Pass, TX
- [TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
February 14 | Fort Worth, TX
- [TxSFST: Roman Forest 8-HR Advanced DWI Course](#)  
February 14 | Roman Forest, TX
- [Texas DRE: Harlingen – ARIDE Course](#)  
February 15–16 | Harlingen, TX
- [Texas DRE: Austin – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\)](#)  
February 19 | Austin, TX
- [Texas DRE: Brazoria County Sheriff's Office – ARIDE Course](#)  
February 19–20 | Angleton, TX
- [TxSFST: Corpus Christi 50-HR SFST Instructor Course](#)  
February 19–23 | Corpus Christi, TX
- [TxIDTF: 2024 Texas Impaired Driving Forum](#)  
February 21 | Austin, TX
- [TxIDTF: Texas Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting](#)  
February 22 | Austin, TX
- [TxSFST: Canyon 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
February 27 | Canyon, TX
- [TxSFST: Canyon 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
February 28 | Canyon, TX
- [TRCC: Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Meeting](#)  
February 28 | Hybrid

## MARCH

- [Texas DRE: San Antonio – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\)](#)  
March 4 | San Antonio, TX
- [Texas DRE: La Porte Police Department – ARIDE Course](#)  
March 5–6 | La Porte, TX
- [TxSFST: Brazoria 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)  
March 12–14 | Iowa Colony, TX
- [Texas DRE: Frisco – ARIDE Course](#)  
March 18–19 | Frisco, TX
- [TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
March 20 | Fort Worth, TX
- [Texas DRE: El Paso – Specialized DWI Training “Don’t Fear the Darkside”](#)  
March 25–26 | El Paso, TX
- [Texas DRE: Tyler – ARIDE Course](#)  
March 26–27 | Tyler, TX
- [Texas DRE: El Paso County Sheriff's Academy – ARIDE Course](#)  
March 27–28 | El Paso, TX



The next meeting:  
**Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**Norris Conference Center**  
2525 W Anderson Ln. #365  
Austin, TX 78757



## Newsletter Additions

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](mailto:c-adams@tti.tamu.edu) or [e-shields@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:e-shields@tti.tamu.edu).