

Northwest Evaluator

The Pacific Northwest
Drug Recognition Expert Newsletter



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American View on Marijuana: Banned, but Tolerated

Americans appear to have struck an odd compromise on marijuana, with most believing the drug should remain illegal but wanting prohibitions against its use lightly enforced, the Denver Post reported Sept. 18.

Producing and distributing marijuana still carries big penalties, but a number of U.S. communities have limited police authority to prosecute minor marijuana offenses, and even more have legalized medical use of marijuana. Denver residents will go to the polls in November to vote on whether to make marijuana possession the city's lowest law-enforcement priority.

"Americans are making a very clear and logical distinction," said Allen St. Pierre, director of the marijuana legalization group NORML. "Possession is OK, but as soon as you introduce the idea of individuals growing [or legal distribution] you lose support in all of our polling."

A previous ballot initiative in Denver eliminated local marijuana-possession penalties, but city police are still citing residents for violating the state law against possession. "I think the voters of this country still advocate enforcement of marijuana laws," said Denver police Sgt. Ernie Martinez.

In the U.S., 13 states allow medical use of marijuana, and polls show up to 73 percent of Americans support medical marijuana. In 2006, New Mexico voters approved a measure that would see the state distribute the drug to medical-marijuana users.

On the other hand, research has shown that just 32 percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana and selling it on par with alcohol and tobacco. That's up from 19 percent in 1973, but NORML's St. Pierre said legalization support "has plateaued."

One change in the recent debate is that it has become respectable to argue both sides of the marijuana-legalization issue, with pundits like William F. Buckley Jr. and the Denver Post among those calling for marijuana legalization.

Information obtained from Join Together
September 19, 2007, News Summary

Hard Work and Reporting Oregon DRE's and ODOT-TSD

The Oregon Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP) enjoys a long standing partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation—Transportation Safety Division (ODOT-TSD). Through ODOT-TSD the Oregon DEC Program receives federal highway safety dollars that fund DRE training and DRE overtime callouts.

The continued support provided through ODOT-TSD funds helps the Oregon DEC Program continue its proud tradition of being one of the nations most professional DRE Programs. With this funding comes reporting requirements. It is once again the end of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) and that means it is time to close these grants. This is just a brief reminder for all Oregon DRE's to submit their drug evaluations and overtime billing requests in a timely fashion. The 2007 FFY ends September 31, 2007, and I need this information as part of the final grant report.

Thanks and keep up the good work.

DECLINING TRAFFIC DEATHS LEAD TO LOWEST HIGHWAY FATALITY RATE EVER RECORDED

The number of people who died on the nation's roads fell last year, leading to the lowest highway fatality rate ever recorded and the largest drop in total deaths in 15 years, U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters announced today.

"Tough safety requirements and new technologies are helping make our vehicles safer and our roads less deadly," Secretary Peters said. "But we all must do more when so many are killed or seriously hurt on our roads every day."

In 2006, 42,642 people died in traffic crashes, a drop of 868 deaths compared to 2005. This two percent decline in traffic deaths contributed to the historic low fatality rate of 1.42 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), Secretary Peters said.

Most significantly, fatalities of occupants of passenger vehicles—cars, SUVs, vans and pickups—continued a steady decline to 30,521, the lowest annual total since 1993, Secretary Peters said. Injuries were also down in 2006, with passenger car injuries declining by 6.2 percent and large truck injuries falling by 15 percent, she said.

Secretary Peters cautioned that troubling trends continue in motorcycle and alcohol-related crashes. Alcohol-related fatalities rose slightly in 2006 over the previous year, while motorcycle deaths rose by

5.1 percent. This is the ninth year in a row the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has seen an increase in motorcycle deaths.

"Proper training, clothing, gear and, above all, helmet use are essential to reversing this deadly trend," Secretary Peters said.

Drunk driving enforcement will continue to be a top priority for the Department, said NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason, noting no improvement in last year's alcohol-related fatalities numbers. In 2006, 15,121 fatalities involved a driver or motorcycle operator, pedestrian or cyclist who had a .08 or above BAC (blood alcohol concentration) compared to 15,102 in 2005, she said.

"There is a personal story behind these statistics and for every alcohol related fatality, the family left behind is shattered forever," Administrator Nason said.

NHTSA collects crash statistics annually from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to produce reports on fatalities and injuries. This newly released report can be seen on NHTSA's website.

Information obtained from NHTSA
In The News - Monday, July 23, 2007

FIRST TIME USERS OF PAIN RELIEVERS CONTINUE TO SURPASS ALL OTHER DRUGS

More than 2.1 million persons ages 12 or older used prescription-type pain relievers* for the first time in 2006, according to recently released data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). While the number of new users of pain relievers has been decreasing since 2003, it continues to be the drug category with the largest number of new initiates since surpassing marijuana in 2002. The number of first-time marijuana users has declined significantly, from nearly 3.0 million in 2000 to slightly more than 2.0 million in 2006. Other recent changes in the initiation of illicit drugs include increases in the number of first time ecstasy users (from 615,000 in 2005 to 860,000 in 2006) and in the number of first-time nonmedical users of prescription-type stimulants* (from 647,000 to 845,000). Previous research has found that changes in initiation levels "are often leading indicators of emerging patterns of substance use."

**Use of pain relievers and stimulants refers to the nonmedical use of prescription-type pain relievers and stimulants and does not include over-the-counter drugs.*

Information obtained from CESAR FAX
September 17, 2007, Vol. 16, Issue 37

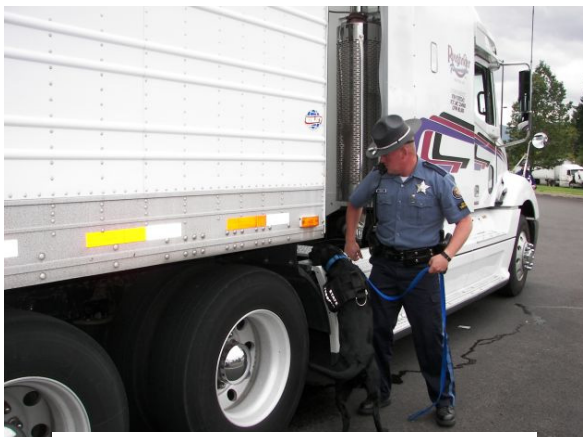
OPERATION TRUCKER CHECK XIII

Operation Trucker Check XIII began 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, September 18th, and concluded September 20th, involving a team of law enforcement officers and ODOT commercial vehicle inspectors targeting driver impairments related to alcohol, drugs, or fatigue, and vehicle equipment safety. Participating agencies included Oregon State Police, ODOT-Motor Carrier Transportation Division, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Portland Police Bureau, and Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

A total of 512 commercial vehicles were inspected of which 55 (11%) were placed out-of-service for critical safety violations. Ninety-nine (19%) drivers were also placed out-of-service for assorted safety violations including excessive driving hours, log book deficiencies, and driver qualification issues. Officers and inspectors issued 21 motor carrier-related citations and 606 warnings. Two persons were found in possession of methamphetamine and a third person was in possession of marijuana.

"The preliminary statistics were consistent with previously held Operation Trucker Checks in Woodburn, Ontario and Ashland," said OSP Sergeant Alan Hageman. "On a positive note, no drivers were determined to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Just in case, though, we had the new Mobile DUII Processing Center motor home on site to help with testing and processing any possible intoxicated drivers."

Another aspect of this operation was to determine the extent of substance abuse by commercial drivers through voluntary collection of urine samples for forensic testing. Urine samples are being forwarded to an Oregon State Police Forensics Laboratory for testing, the results of which may not be available for several weeks.



Scott Rector, OSP

Toxicology tests completed by the Oregon State Police (OSP) Forensic Services Division on nearly 500 voluntarily provided anonymous urine tests during Operation Trucker Check XII in April 2007 indicated about one in ten commercial drivers had controlled substances in their system. The following are the analysis results of the 487 urine samples obtained during Operation Trucker Check XII:

- * 8 (1.64%) drivers tested positive for the presence of amphetamines, equal to the number of drivers tested positive in 1998.
- * 18 (3.70%) tested positive for the presence of cannabinoid (marijuana), nearly double the number of drivers tested positive in 1998.
- * 2 (0.41%) tested positive for the presence of methadone.
- * 16 (3.29%) tested positive for opiates (e.g., oxycodone), double the number of drivers tested positive in 1998.
- * 3 (0.62%) tested positive for propoxyphene (synthetic opiates).
- * 5 (1.03%) were positive for more than one drug category.
- * Overall, 41 (9.65%) of the 487 drivers provided urine which tested positive in at least one drug category.



James Pierce, OSP

INTERNET LINGO

Decoding Internet Lingo and Character Symbols

TGIF, RSVP or even ASAP may sound familiar; however as computers have transformed communications a new dialect has emerged: Internet lingo. Acronyms or character symbols called Emoticons (mixing symbols to express emotions or moods) enable teens to communicate with others in a few keystrokes. While often just a convenient and quick means of communication, many teens use these acronyms and symbols to warn their friends when parents might be present and even to discuss drug use in a code that parents can't decipher.

(Continued from Page 3 – Internet Lingo)

Instant messages, blog entries and text messages often look like Sanskrit to parents, but decoding this lingo used in digital communications is an important monitoring skill that should not be overlooked. Here is a quick guide to help you translate what teens are saying online and in their cell phone text messages. Keep in mind that, as with street names for drugs, these symbols and acronyms are subject to frequent change, particularly when those who use them suspect that others have figured out what they mean.

Lingo to Warn of Parental Monitoring

POS	Parent Over Shoulder
PIR	Parent in Room
P911	Parent Alert
PAW	Parents Are Watching
PAL	Parents Are Listening
KPC	Keeping Parents Clueless

Internet Lingo of Social or Sexual Nature

WYCM	Will You Call Me?
ASL	Age/Sex/Location
MorF	Male or Female
KFY	Kiss For You
MOOS	Member(s) Of the Opposite Sex
ADR	Address
LMIRL	Let's Meet In Real Life
HAK	Hugs And Kisses
ILU or ILY	I Love You
KOTL	Kiss On The Lips
SMIM	Send Me an Instant Message
SMEM	Send Me an E-Mail
WUF	Where Are You From?
WYRN	What's Your Real Name?

Emotions

;))	Winking
:*(Crying
#-)	Wiped out, partied all night
%*}	Inebriated
%\	Hangover
8-#	Death

Drug Lingo

Similar to Internet lingo, drug nomenclature can be cryptic. Parents can monitor for drug use by learning popular drug lingo and asking questions. A few examples of popular drug lingo are listed below.

Marijuana Lingo

Pot	Marijuana
Weed	Marijuana
Bud	Marijuana
Mary Jane	Marijuana
Ganja	Marijuana
Blunt	Marijuana rolled into a Philly Blunt
Bong	A large water filtered pipe for smoking marijuana

Prescription Drug

Pharming	Raiding medical cabinets to trade and consume prescription drugs to get high
Robotripping	Drinking cough medicine to get high
Lean	Drinking prescription cough syrup mixed with painkillers and soda
O	Oxycontin
Tweaking	High on amphetamines
Blue Boogers	Snorting Adderall or Ritalin

Parent Tips

1. Limit your teen's time spent online, and put computers in a common area of the house.
2. Learn about the digital devices your teen uses.
3. Visit your teen's Web site or personal blog.

Information obtained from Parents - The Anti-Drug
<http://www.theantidrug.com/E-monitoring/internet-lingo.asp>

MOBILE DUII PROCESSING CENTER

Oregon State Police (OSP) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) rolled out the latest tool in the state's toolbox for making Oregon roads safer. The new mobile DUII processing center, or MDPC, is sort of a police station on wheels and its mission is to help keep impaired drivers off Oregon highways during special events around the state.

"Each year there is several large public events during which law enforcement agencies work together to increase enforcement presence to reduce DUII-related incidents and crashes," said OSP Superintendent Timothy McLain. "Depending upon the location of these events, police officers may be tied up for hours transporting and processing an intoxicated driver."

To help bring the necessary equipment and resources to these areas OSP, ODOT, and other law enforcement agencies and partners found a creative solution to help facilitate an efficient way to process arrested DUII drivers while getting the officers back on the road quicker.

"This allows law enforcement to bring the equipment necessary to process a DUII offender to the scene of the offense instead of the other way around, which can sometimes take up valuable time," said Troy E. Costales, ODOT's Safety Division administrator. "Trained DUII officers can be back on the road removing dangerous drivers much quicker when they can use the MDPC."

The MDPC is a 2007 36-foot Winnebago Voyage motor home retrofitted with all the equipment

(Continued from Page 4 – Mobile DUII Processing Center)

necessary to test and process intoxicated drivers including three Intoxilyzer Model 8000 breath-alcohol testing equipment, three work stations with laptops and printers, and two temporary holding cells. The unit also includes emergency supplies, cell phones and radio communications equipment. Purchased by OSP through a grant from ODOT's Transportation Safety Division, the MDPC cost \$171,000 and is available for use by all law enforcement agencies in the state.

"The value of this new mobile processing center will greatly enhance law enforcement's ability to process intoxicated drivers, especially at events and remote areas where there is a vital need to get officers back on the road to help prevent DUII-related crashes and incidents," Superintendent Mc Lain said.

The MDPC made its first official appearance Labor Day holiday weekend in central Oregon at the Paulina Rodeo. Since then it has also been used at Mt. Angel's Oktoberfest and Operation Trucker Check XIII.



CRYSTAL DARKNESS The Documentary

Crystal Darkness is a 30-minute gripping documentary underscoring the frightening truth about Meth's devastating attack on our youth and their families.

The program is targeted for youth and their parents, but the message extends with conviction to an entire community and throughout our nation. If you are not yet aware of the seriousness of the Meth problem in our neighborhoods, then the images and stories shared in this film will prove to be both shocking and scary.

The story is told through the powerful testimonies of young people who have gone through the dark and lonely depths of Meth addiction. With heart wrenching and raw honesty, they speak to their generation with an unforgettable message of warning.

On January 9th, 2007, the community of Northern Nevada fought back against Meth. In a historic and unprecedented event, a 30-minute documentary titled Crystal Darkness aired in a roadblock, which meant it was broadcast simultaneously on almost all stations in the area.

The Crystal Darkness Campaign was a unique collaboration between the local media, schools, law enforcement, recovery specialists and the business community. It was spearheaded by Secret Witness a local non-profit crime stopping organization.

Because of the publicity leading up to the airing of Crystal Darkness, it is believed by many to have been the most watched program in Northern Nevada history.

The results of the historic airing will be realized for years to come and the campaign is just the beginning. However, the initial response was dramatic. One of the most significant positive affects of the campaign was that it brought the community together in the fight against Meth and now we are now completely mobilized to fight back to protect our youth and neighborhoods against this terrible drug.

Since the broadcast, Secret Witness has been contacted by cities throughout the nation and is offering to assist other communities in hosting their own Crystal Darkness Campaign.

We have developed a blueprint that we believe can work in any city in the nation and it is extremely cost effective and very powerful. We believe it will revolutionize the way that community education concerning this drug is delivered.

The Portland Crystal Darkness Campaign is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9th from 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fox 12 is the first station to commit to the event. There are plans to make this a statewide event.

Information obtained from <http://www.crystaldarkness.com/>

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**14TH ANNUAL IACP
"Drugs, Alcohol, &
Impaired Driving Conference"**

**August 10 – 12, 2008
Indianapolis, Indiana**

For more information, visit the conference website at www.decp.org