

The Effects of Drugs on Driving

Cocaine

Often used to mask fatigue, cocaine impairs judgment and hinders the drivers' ability to concentrate.

Other dangers include:

- Diminished coordination and vision
- Increased impulsive behaviours
- An illusion of being alert and aware of surroundings
- Restricted physical reactions

Opiates

Opiates can cause a variety of side effects which can negatively impact a drivers' ability to operate and control their vehicle. Such side effects include;

- Drowsiness
- Mental confusion
- Visual impairment
- Diminished control of physical movements
- Difficulty keeping the vehicle in the correct lane
- May make errors in judgment

Amphetamines

Amphetamines and ecstasy can lead to speeding or erratic driving as well as the following dangers;

- Increased risk taking
- Reduced concentration
- Impaired vision

Marijuana

Concentration is drastically diminished and there is difficulty in perceiving time and distance, which can lead to the following:

- Bad judgment
- Impaired reaction time
- Poor speed control
- Inability to accurately read road signs
- Drowsiness
- Distraction

Tranquilizers

Tranquilizers produce a drowsiness that can be very dangerous for people who are operating motor vehicles under the influence. Other serious impacts of tranquilizers on users' ability to drive are;

- Slower reaction time
- Poor tracking
- Lack of co-ordination
- Diminished memory
- Altered perceptions
- Difficulty in maintaining lane position
- Neglecting roadside instructions

