National Transportation Safety Board

Detection of Drug-Impaired Drivers

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Overview

- Truck driver background

- Detection of drug-impaired drivers

  - Law enforcement training

  - Roadside drug screening

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Truck Driver Background

- 20 years old
- Class C noncommercial driver's license
- History of drug use
- 8 prior interactions with law enforcement
- Many officers not sufficiently trained to detect drug-impaired drivers

Law Enforcement Training

- Effects of advanced drug-recognition training
  - Removes already impaired drivers from roadway
  - Deters others from driving while impaired
- Drug recognition training in Texas
  - Standardized field sobriety test (SFST)
  - Advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement (ARIDE)
  - Drug evaluation and classification (DEC)

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Roadside Drug Screening

- Oral fluid screening devices are accurate, reliable, and facilitate timely blood testing

- Oral fluid screening not in widespread use

- Guidance on screening devices has not been developed

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Summary

- Advanced training needed for officers to identify signs and symptoms of impairment and deter impaired driving

- Oral fluid testing can improve identification of drivers with impairing drugs in their systems

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