The Effects of Intoxication on Drivers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA) estimates that 40% of all accidents that result in fatalities involve someone who is impaired by drugs or alcohol.1

The most common negative effects of impairment include:

Judgement

∞ Vision

ெ Reaction time

Inability to distinguish colors

Effects by Substance

Alcohol

Drivers who have been drinking typically experience:

Slower reaction time (such as late braking or failure to veer around obstacles)

Difficulty distinguishing between different colors used for traffic

Marijuana

Drivers with THC in their system commonly experience:

គុំត្រ Extremely slow reaction time

配介 Loss of coordination

Improper judgement of space and time

This can lead to veering into other lanes and less attention paid to the road. Besides alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often detected in the blood of a driver when tested after a crash.2

Cocaine and Methamphetamine

Since these two drugs are stimulants, they are more likely to result in reckless driving such as:

Weaving in and out of traffic

Tailgating

4 Aggressive behavior towards other drivers (road rage)

Although these stimulants make the driver feel very alert, their reaction time and physical coordination can still be negatively impacted.

Benzodiazepines and Opioids

Prescription pills and opiates such as heroin often lead to:

- Drowsiness

ငမှိုာ Dizziness

Potential to fall asleep at the wheel

Some studies even suggest that being under the influence of opioids while driving can double your risk of an accident.2

Numbers to Keep in Mind

44% of drivers involved in fatal car crashes tested positive for drugs² 20.5 million people 16-years-old or older drove under the influence of alcohol in 2018 12.6 million people drove under the influence of illicit drugs





Don't be another statistic; call for a friend or rideshare if you are intoxicated.