

# Instructor Guide

# DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) Refresher



Revised: 10/2015



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# Instructor Guide

## DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) Refresher

October 2015

*Save lives, prevent  
injuries, reduce  
vehicle-related  
crashes*



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## Preface

The Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training curriculum collectively prepares police officers and other qualified persons to conduct the SFST's for use in DWI investigations. This training, developed under the auspices and direction of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), has experienced remarkable success since its inception in the early 1980s.

As in any educational training program, an instruction manual or guide is considered a "living document" that is subject to updates and changes based on advances in technology and science. A thorough review is made of information by the IACP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) of the Highway Safety Committee of the IACP with contributions from many sources in health care science, toxicology, jurisprudence, and law enforcement. Based on this information, any appropriate revisions and modifications in background theory, facts, examination and decision making methods are made to improve the quality of the instruction as well as the standardization of guidelines for the implementation of the SFST curriculum. The reorganized manuals are then prepared and disseminated, both domestically and internationally, to the states. Changes will normally take effect 90 days after approval by the TAP, unless otherwise specified or when so designated.

The procedures outlined in this manual describe how the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) are to be administered under ideal conditions. We recognize that the SFST's will not always be administered under ideal conditions in the field, because such conditions do not always exist. Even when administered under less than ideal conditions, they will generally serve as valid and useful indicators of impairment. Slight variations from the ideal, i.e., the inability to find a perfectly smooth surface at roadside, may have some effect on the evidentiary weight given to the results. However, this does not necessarily make the SFSTs invalid.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Administrator's Guide provides an introduction and overview of the SFST Refresher Training Program. The SFST Refresher Training Program is an Instructor-led program.

**THIS SFST REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM IS INTENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFRESHER TRAINING ONLY. THIS PROGRAM IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR NHTSA/IACP APPROVED DWI DETECTION AND STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING TRAINING.**

The SFST Refresher Training Program focuses on enforcement of alcohol impaired driving. Other programs have been designed to improve police officers' skills in detecting and apprehending drug impaired drivers, including a 4-hour module, "Introduction to Drugged Driving", the 16-hour Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program. These are available from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The SFST Refresher Program is provided in a minimum 4-hour modular format. Modules may be added to meet the training needs identified by each individual state SFST or DEC Program Coordinators. These optional modules are included in this curriculum package.

DEC Program Coordinators may approve the use of ARIDE to fulfill an individual state's requirement for SFST Refresher Training. Refer to the ARIDE Administrator's Guide for delivery of program.

For more information regarding these or other materials and programs, contact your State Office of Highway Safety, NHTSA Regional Training Coordinator, State DEC Program Coordinator, and/or State SFST Training Coordinator.

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## **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The Administrator's Guide is intended to facilitate planning and implementation of the SFST Refresher Training Program. The guide provides a general overview of the sequence of instruction for the SFST Refresher Training Program as well as an outline of the Instructor-led modules.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE**

### ***Intended Audience***

SFST Refresher Training is for law enforcement officers at the federal, state, county and local level who have successfully completed the NHTSA/IACP-approved DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training Program.

### ***Purpose of the Training***

The primary purpose the SFST Refresher Training Program is to improve the overall consistency of administration of the SFST test battery by individual police officers. Officers can refresh their skills with:

- recognizing and interpreting evidence of DWI;
- administering and interpreting the scientifically validated sobriety tests; and
- describing DWI evidence clearly and convincingly; and
- information regarding recent case law and research studies.

### ***Course Content***

The minimum SFST Refresher Training Program has four content modules. Each module has an introduction and several topics. Optional modules may be added as described on page one of this document. The following is a description of the topics and content covered in each session:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Duration</b>
1	Introduction and Overview	30 Minutes
2	Vehicle In Motion and Personal Contact	60 Minutes
3	Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review	60 Minutes
4	Proficiency and Written Examination	90 Minutes
Optional	Processing the Arrested Subject and Preparation for Trial	90 Minutes
Optional	Overcoming Impaired Driving Defenses and Legal Issues	90 Minutes
Optional	Live Alcohol Workshop	60 Minutes
Optional	Video Alcohol Workshop	60 Minutes
Optional	Overview of Drug-Impaired Driving	90 Minutes

### Session 1: Introduction and Overview

This session has two Segments: "Welcoming Remarks and Objectives" and "Administrative Details".

In this session, participants will receive a brief welcome and introduction. Describe your credentials for providing SFST training and carefully state the goals and objectives of the course. This is a **preparation** step, focused in the **cognitive domain** of learning. During this segment have the participants introduce themselves and print their names clearly on name tent cards, so that you will be able to call on them by name.

Next, you must attend to some essential "housekeeping duties", e.g., by notifying participants of the schedule that will be followed, pointing out the locations of restrooms, lunch rooms, etc.

### Session 2: Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

This session is a review of the first two phases of Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. Phase 1, Vehicle in Motion, including impaired motorcycle operators, covers the officer's initial observations of vehicular operation, the decision to stop, and observation of the stop. Phase 2, Personal Contact, covers the face-to-face observation and interview of the driver while still in the vehicle and the decision to instruct the driver to exit the vehicle or dismount.

### Session 3: Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

A detailed review of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests including the foundational studies and the most recent validation studies. The session objectives are:

- Understand the results of selected SFST validation studies
- Define and describe the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs)
- Define nystagmus and distinguish between the different types
- Describe and properly administer the three SFSTs
- Recognize, document and articulate the indicators and clues of the three SFSTs

### Visuals

Session 3 visuals will include short videos of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, Walk and Turn, and One Leg Stand tests imbedded in the PowerPoint presentation.

### Session 4: Proficiency and Written Examination

The participant must pass the NHTSA/IACP Proficiency Examination. Participant will be given a minimum of two opportunities (or such number as prescribed by state standards) to successfully complete the Proficiency Examination. The objective for this session is to demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in administering the Standardized Field Sobriety Test Battery.

The evaluation is based on a written examination. The passing grade is 80%.

Participants who fail to obtain a passing grade may take a remedial examination following the completion of this course.

Optional Session: Processing the Arrested Subject and Preparation for Trial

In "The Processing Phase", you will review the tasks officers are supposed to perform when processing persons arrested for DWI. Since these tasks vary somewhat from agency to agency, **you may have to modify the content of this segment.**

In "Preparing the DWI Offense/Arrest Report: Documenting the Evidence", you will review the kind of information officers should include in their DWI reports. Participants will view a nighttime DWI stop and arrest scenario.

In "Case Preparation and Pretrial Conference", you will explain the things officers should do in preparing to testify in DWI cases, and you will emphasize the role of the pretrial conference with the prosecutor in trial preparation. You will show a video segment of a pretrial conference, and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the officer's preparation with your participants.

In "Guidelines for Direct Testimony", you will present and explain some "do's and don't's" of testimony in DWI cases. You may show a video segment of a prepared officer and discuss the officer's performance with your participants.

Optional Session: Overcoming Impaired Driving Defenses and Legal Issues

This session serves as a guide to the most common defenses in impaired driving cases, drawing on the expertise and experience of prosecutors from around the United States. It is suggested that a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) or other prosecutor present this session. To locate your TSRP, go to [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org)

Many offices assign the newest prosecutors to the impaired driving cases, even though these cases can be among the most complex and challenging cases on the docket. Few other cases present the prosecutor and officer with a more complex and litigated statute, a greater likelihood of technical, scientific evidence, or the very real likelihood of expert defense testimony. Even so, some defense attorneys will occasionally use variations of a number of traditional defense tactics when trying DWI cases. Knowing these tactics, and being able to quickly respond to them, gives the prosecutor and the officer the advantage.

This session is based upon the publications *Overcoming Impaired Driving Defenses* published by American Prosecutors Research Institute and *Prosecution of DWI* published by NHTSA.

Optional Session: Live Alcohol Workshop

You will assign the participants to work in teams. Instead of testing each other, they will administer the tests to a group of volunteer drinkers **who are not members of the class** and who have been recruited especially for this purpose. The participants will carefully record and interpret the volunteers' performance of the tests, and will assess each volunteer's impairment. In the final segment of this Session, "Session Wrap-up", participants will report their assessments of the volunteers, and will be informed of the volunteers' BACs. (Instructions for "dosing" volunteers are in the Administrator's Guide, of the current DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing curriculum.)

### Optional Session: Video Alcohol Workshop

For this session, participants will view the NHTSA/IACP approved videos designated for Session XI-A in the current DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing curriculum. They will view the videos, assess the subjects' impairment, and record their observations. In the final segment of this Session, "Session Wrap-up", participants will report their assessments of the video subjects, and will be informed of the subjects' BACs. Note that this optional session differs from the current DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing curriculum Session 11-A by not requiring participant practice during the session.

### Optional Session: Overview of Drug-Impaired Driving

The purpose of the module is to improve participants' ability to recognize subjects who may be under the influence of drugs other than alcohol, and to take appropriate action when they encounter such subjects. The hope and expectation is that due to this training, fewer drug-impaired subjects will avoid detection or be treated simply as alcohol-impaired. In those agencies that have a drug evaluation and classification program, the "appropriate action" would be to summon a DRE.

Note that the purpose of this module does not require that the participant develop the ability to distinguish what type of drug is responsible for the observed impairment. Indeed, we assert that this module, by itself, cannot develop that ability. But, the participant should become more adept to recognizing the possible presence of some drug other than alcohol, and at conveying a credible basis for that suspicion.

### **INSTRUCTOR-LED COURSE MATERIALS**

The course materials for the Instructor-led SFST Refresher Training Program consist of the following documents and materials:

- Instructor's Lesson Plans Manual
- Visual Aids
- Participant Manual

#### ***Instructor's Lesson Plans Manual***

The Instructor's Lesson Plans Manual is a complete and detailed blue print of what the course covers and of how it is to be taught. It is organized into four sessions with five optional sessions included. Each session consists of a cover page, an outline page, the lesson plans, a paper copy of the visual aids ("slides"), and any other related material referenced in the session.

- The **cover page** presents the session's title and the total instructional time required to complete the session.
- The **outline page** lists the content segments and principal types of learning activities that take place during the session.
- The **lesson plans** are arranged in a straight-text format. Bold italic font in the Instructor Manual indicates the Instructor Notes. These notes provide guidance concerning how the content is to be taught. For example, the instructor notes might include the approximate amount of time to be devoted to a particular topic and/or points requiring special emphasis.

In addition to the content, the Instructor's Lesson Plans Manual includes the following:

- Glossary
- Final Test

The Instructor's Lesson Plans Manual is designed to prepare the instructor to teach the course. Instructors should review the entire set of lesson plans to become familiar with the content and develop a clear understanding of the course flow. Instructors are expected to gather and be prepared to operate any equipment necessary (i.e., projection screen, computer with PowerPoint software, LCD projector, etc.). Instructors should also have all participant manuals and handouts (i.e., post course exam) prepared before class begins. Instructors should use the lesson plans as a tool for helping to maintain the sequence and pace of presentations and other learning activities. The Instructor's Lesson Plans Manual is not a script and should not be read verbatim to the participants.

### ***Visual Aids***

The instructor-led program uses two types of visual aids:

- PowerPoint presentations
- Video

The PowerPoint presentation is used to emphasize key points and support the instructor's presentation. Instructors should use this presentation when a computer and/or projection system is available for use.

If a computer is not available to display the PowerPoint presentation, instructors can use the print-ready format. This is a black and white, paper version of the PowerPoint presentation that can be printed from PowerPoint as handouts or transparencies. A CD which includes all of the video clips used in the program can be used to accompany this version of the presentation.

In addition to the PowerPoint presentation and the video, the instructor should feel free to use any available dry-erase board or flipchart paper to add emphasis to a presentation.

### ***Participant Manual***

The SFST Refresher Training Participant Manual serves as a reference guide for the participant. Each participant should receive a manual that includes:

- Training Objectives
- Glossary
- Summary of the content for each session

## ***TESTING***

### ***Description of Proficiency Testing***

You will formally test each participant's ability to administer the three tests properly.

### ***Description of Post Course Exam***

The exam is handed out and taken in a paper-based, written format. The questions for the post course exam are adapted from the DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training Program. The

exam is contained in Session 4: Proficiency and Written Examination

**NHTSA Regional Offices**

*Note: Regional Training Coordinators are located in each Regional Office.*

<b>Region</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
1 <i>Cambridge, MA</i>	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	(617) 494-3427
2 <i>White Plains, NY</i>	New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands	(914) 682-6162
3 <i>Baltimore, MD</i>	Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia	(410) 962-0090
4 <i>Atlanta, GA</i>	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee	(404) 562-3739
5 <i>Olympia Fields, IL</i>	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin	(708) 503-8822
6 <i>Fort Worth, TX</i>	Indian Nations, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	(817) 978-3653
7 <i>Kansas City, MO</i>	Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska	(816) 329-3900
8 <i>Denver, CO</i>	Colorado, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	(720) 963-3100
9 <i>San Francisco, CA</i>	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Guam	(415) 744-3089
10 <i>Seattle, WA</i>	Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington	(206) 220-7640

For the DEC Program Coordinators refer to the DECP website at: [www.decp.org](http://www.decp.org)

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# Instructor Guide

# DWI Detection and SFST Refresher

Session 1 - Introduction and Overview

1 Hour

## Session 1

### Introduction and Overview



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

1-2

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***Instructor needs to put in Location and Date.***

**SESSION I: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

Upon successfully completing this session, the participant will be able to:

- State the goals and objectives of the training.
- Describe the training schedule and activities.
- Describe the current DWI problem.
- Identify the elements of the drug problem.
- Define and describe impaired driving enforcement programs.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and how this course supports the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP).
- Define the term drug in the context of traffic safety and impaired driving enforcement as referenced in the DECP.

**CONTENT SEGMENTS**

- A. Welcoming Remarks and Objectives
  - B. Administrative Details
  - C. Driving Under the Influence
  - D. Impaired Driving Enforcement System
  - E. DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Program
  - F. Drugs and Highway Safety
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Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## Overview of the DWI Problem

- In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes
- These fatalities accounted for 31 percent of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States
- The 10,076 fatalities represent an average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality every 51 minutes



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 1-6

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### Overview of the DWI Problem

- In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes.
- These fatalities accounted for 31 percent of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States.
- The 10,076 fatalities represent an average of one alcohol-impaired driving fatality every 51 minutes.

### Driving Under the Influence

Understand the magnitude of the problem of subjects driving while impaired by drugs and alcohol.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health report provides a thorough overview of drug and alcohol use in the general population. The survey tells us:

- Males are twice as likely as females to drive under the influence of alcohol.
- Overall, 10.9% or more than 29 million people reported that they had driven at least once in the last year under the influence of alcohol.
- That further translated into approximately 10.8% of people 18-20 years of age and 19.7% of those between the ages of 21 and 25 years.
- In 2013, 9.9 million people reported that they drove under the influence of illicit drugs during the past year.

*Source: 2013 National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)*

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Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## Impaired Drivers Kill or Injure a Person Every Minute!



**65 deaths and injuries each hour!**

Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 1-7

Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## NHTSA and IACP Support

- Training
- Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Adjudication

Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 1-8

65 deaths and injuries each hour!

*This frame is intended to address the local perspective.*

*Fill in appropriate information from agency sources.*

- Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people now live in \_\_\_\_\_.
- About \_\_\_\_\_ of these people will die in vehicle crashes.
- About \_\_\_\_\_ will die in DWI crashes.

### Impaired Driving Enforcement System

NHTSA and IACP support:

- Training
- Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Adjudication

What NHTSA/IACP Supports:

Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grants, Crackdown support, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP), Saturation Patrols, Sobriety Checkpoints, and Judicial Education.

One of the most critical support activities NHTSA/IACP provides is TRAINING.

Some examples of law enforcement and justice professional training that NHTSA/IACP provides and supports are:

- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
- Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program
- Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals (DITEP)
- Prosecuting the Drugged Driver
- Lethal Weapon
- Protecting Lives, Saving Futures









Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## ARIDE

- **Delivers knowledge and information that will help better assess impaired drivers at roadside**
- **The training and subsequent field experience demonstrates the value of having a DRE on staff in an agency**



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 1-15

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### The ARIDE Course

The ARIDE program provides officers the ability to build on the knowledge gained through their training and experience related to the SFSTs.

- Many law enforcement officers have encountered subjects who appear to be impaired by a substance other than alcohol, or seem to be displaying signs and symptoms which are inconsistent with their BAC test results.

***Point out that ARIDE provides additional information which can assist the officer in effective observation and interview techniques related to driving while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both, and make an informed decision to arrest or not arrest a subject for impaired driving.***

- ARIDE delivers the knowledge and information that will help officers better assess impaired drivers at roadside.
- It also demonstrates the value of having a DRE on staff in an agency and serves as a motivation for officers to attend a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) course in the future.

A subsequent goal of ARIDE is that it will facilitate better utilization of DREs in the field.

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Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## ARIDE Goal Law Enforcement

- **Observe, identify, and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol or a combination of both in order to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents, serious injury, and fatal crashes.**



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 1-16

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The desired outcome of the training is:

- The participant will better understand the role of the DRE and will be able to use their expertise more effectively.
- For those law enforcement agencies with no DREs or limited access to their services, this course will help officers make informed decisions related to testing, documentation, and reporting drugged driving arrests.

ARIDE is intended to bridge the gap between the SFST and DRE course and to provide a level of awareness to, both law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals, in the area of drug impairment in the context of traffic safety.

ARIDE trains law enforcement officers to observe, identify, and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol or a combination of both in order to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents, serious injury, and fatal crashes.

Often times officers come in contact with the drug impaired driver.

There are many things that could be happening:

- The officer is unfamiliar with the indicators of drug impairment, therefore does nothing with the subject.
- Recognizes there is something wrong with the driver, but does not know how to address the issue.
- Allows subject to continue on their way.
- Drives the subject home or allows the subject to ride home with another individual.
- Not familiar with the resources available to them.

Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## DRE Training

- 72 hours of classroom training
- Field certifications
- Comprehensive final knowledge examination
- Participate in continuing education courses



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*Drug Evaluation and Classification Program*

The ultimate goal of the DEC Program is to train officers to be Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) to help prevent crashes and avoid deaths and injuries by improving enforcement of drug impaired driving investigations.

The DRE officer is trained to conduct a detailed evaluation, consisting of twelve steps (12), and obtain other evidence that can be articulated as an opinion.

An officer who successfully completes all phases of the DEC Program is known as a DRE.

They can reach reasonably accurate conclusions concerning the category or categories of drug(s), or medical conditions causing the impairment observed in the subject.

Based on these informed conclusions, the DRE officer can request the collection and analysis of an appropriate biological sample (blood, urine, or saliva) to obtain corroborative, scientific evidence of the subject's drug use.

The progression between each of the impaired driving enforcement programs is:

- The foundation is SFST
- The intermediate level is ARIDE
- The final stage is the DEC Program

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Session 1 – Introduction and Overview

## Roles and Responsibilities of a DRE

- Complete a recertification training course every two years
- Maintain a log of all evaluations completed in training and as part of any enforcement activities
- Meet other administrative requirements as established in the IACP




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 1-18

*Roles and Responsibilities of a Drug Recognition Expert*

To obtain a DRE Certification the law enforcement officer must complete:

- 72 hours of classroom training
- Field certifications
- Comprehensive final knowledge examination

In order to retain their certification, the DRE must:

- Participate in continuing education courses.
- Complete a recertification training course every two years.
- Maintain a log of all evaluations completed in training and as part of any enforcement activities.
- Meet other administrative requirements as established in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) International Standards governing the DEC program.

The State DEC program state coordinators may place other standards on each DRE that is specific to that state.

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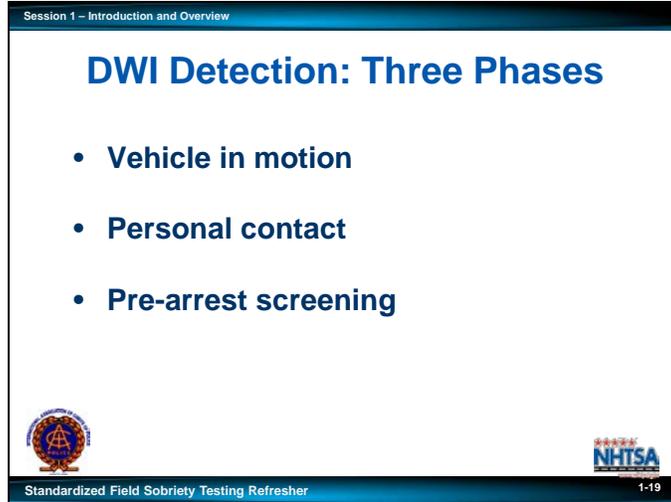
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*DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Program*

The DWI detection process includes three phases:

1. Vehicle in motion
2. Personal contact
3. Pre-arrest screening

Throughout this training we will be discussing concepts related to these three phases.

The SFST battery is a set of tests that include the following:

- Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus
- Walk and Turn
- One Leg Stand

These tests are designed to be administered and evaluated in a standardized manner to obtain validated indicators of impairment based on NHTSA/IACP supported research.

***The SFST test battery serves as the foundation for impaired driving enforcement. It is critical that these tests be performed and interpreted properly.***

***Note: Each of these phases will be discussed in further detail in upcoming sessions.***

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## **DWI DETECTION AND STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING (SFST) REFRESHER TRAINING**

### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

#### **ADDICTION**

Habitual, psychological, and physiological dependence on a substance beyond one's voluntary control.

#### **ALVEOLAR BREATH**

Breath from the deepest part of the lung.

#### **BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC)**

The percentage of alcohol in a person's blood.

#### **BREATH ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BrAC)**

The percentage of alcohol in a person's breath, as measured by a breath testing device.

#### **CLUE**

Something that leads to the solution of a problem.

#### **CUE**

A reminder or prompting as a signal to do something. A suggestion or a hint.

#### **DIVIDED ATTENTION**

Concentrating on more than one thing at a time.

#### **DIVIDED ATTENTION TEST**

A test which requires the subject to concentrate on both mental and physical tasks at the same time. The two psychophysical tests Walk and Turn (WAT) and One Leg Stand (OLS) require the suspect to their divide attention.

#### **DWI/DUI**

The acronym "DWI" means driving while impaired and is synonymous with the acronym "DUI", driving under the influence or other acronyms used to denote impaired driving. These terms refer to any and all offenses involving the operation of vehicles by persons under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

#### **DWI DETECTION PROCESS**

The entire process of identifying and gathering evidence to determine whether or not a suspect should be arrested for a DWI violation. The DWI detection process has three phases:

Phase One – Vehicle In Motion

Phase Two – Personal Contact

Phase Three – Pre -arrest Screening

## **EVIDENCE**

Any means by which some alleged fact that has been submitted to investigation may either be established or disproved. Evidence of a DWI violation may be of various types:

- a. Physical (or real) evidence: something tangible, visible, or audible.
- b. Well established facts (judicial notice).
- c. Demonstrative evidence: demonstrations performed in the courtroom.
- d. Written matter or documentation.
- e. Testimony.

## **EXPERT WITNESS**

A person skilled in some art, trade, science or profession, having knowledge of matters not within the knowledge of persons of average education, learning and experience, who may assist a jury in arriving at a verdict by expressing an opinion on a state of facts shown by the evidence and based upon his or her special knowledge. (NOTE: Only the court can determine whether a witness is qualified to testify as an expert.)

## **FIELD SOBRIETY TEST**

Any one of several roadside tests that can be used to determine whether a subject is impaired.

## **GAIT ATAXIA**

An unsteady, staggering gait (walk) in which walking is uncoordinated and appears to be "not ordered."

## **HORIZONTAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS (HGN)**

Involuntary jerking of the eyes occurring as the eyes gaze to the side. The first test administered in the SFST battery.

## **NYSTAGMUS**

An involuntary jerking of the eyes.

## **ONE LEG STAND (OLS)**

A divided attention field sobriety test. One of the tests administered in the SFST battery.

## **PER SE**

Used to describe a law which makes it illegal to drive while having a certain percentage of alcohol in the blood or breath.

## **PERSONAL CONTACT**

The second phase in the DWI detection process. In this phase the officer observes and interviews the driver face to face; determines whether to ask the driver to step from the vehicle; and observes the driver's exit and walk from the vehicle.

## **PRE-ARREST SCREENING**

The third phase in the DWI detection process. In this phase the officer administers field sobriety tests to determine whether there is probable cause to arrest the driver for DWI. Depending on agency policy, the officer may administer or could arrange to have a preliminary breath test conducted.

## **PRELIMINARY BREATH TEST (PBT)**

A pre-arrest breath test administered during investigation of a possible DWI violator to obtain an indication of the person's blood alcohol concentration.

## **PROBABLE CAUSE**

It is more than mere suspicion; facts and circumstances within the officer's knowledge, and of which he or she has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient to warrant a person of reasonable caution to believe that an offense has been or is being committed.

## **PSYCHOPHYSICAL**

"Mind/Body." Used to describe field sobriety tests that measure a person's ability to perform both mental and physical tasks.

## **PSYCHOPHYSICAL TESTS**

Methods of investigating the mental (psycho-) and physical characteristics of a person suspected of alcohol or drug impairment. Most psychophysical tests employ the concept of divided attention to assess a suspect's impairment.

## **REASONABLE SUSPICION**

Less than probable cause but more than mere suspicion; exists when an officer, in light of his or her training and experience, reasonably believes and can articulate that criminal activity is taking, has taken or is about to take place.

## **RESTING NYSTAGMUS**

Jerking of the eyes as they look straight ahead.

## **STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TEST BATTERY**

Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. There are three SFSTs, namely Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN), Walk and Turn, and One Leg Stand. Based on a series of controlled laboratory studies, scientifically validated clues of alcohol impairment have been identified for each of these three tests. They are the only Standardized Field Sobriety Tests for which validated clues have been identified

## **TIDAL BREATH**

Breath from the upper part of the lungs and mouth.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR (TSRP)**

Is usually a current or former prosecutor who provides training, education and technical support to traffic crimes prosecutors and law enforcement agencies throughout their state. (For the contact information of your TSRP, contact your Highway Safety Office).

**VALID**

Conforming to accepted principles. Producing accurate and reliable results.

**VALIDATED**

A documented act of demonstrating that a procedure, process, and/or activity will consistently lead to accurate and reliable results.

**VEHICLE IN MOTION**

The first phase in the DWI detection process. In this phase the officer observes the vehicle in operation, determines whether to stop the vehicle, and observes the stopping sequence.

**VERTICAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS**

An involuntary jerking of the eyes (up and down) which occurs when the eyes gaze upward at maximum elevation. The jerking should be distinct and sustained.

**WALK AND TURN (WAT)**

A divided attention field sobriety test. One of the tests administered in SFST battery.

# Instructor Guide

# DWI Detection and SFST Refresher

Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

1 Hour

## Session 2

### Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Phase One: Vehicle in Motion

Initial Observation  
of the Vehicle  
in Operation

Should I Stop  
the Vehicle?

?

Observation of  
the Stop



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-3

### A. Overview: Tasks and Decision

Your first task in Phase One: Vehicle in Motion is to observe the vehicle in operation to note any initial cues of a possible DWI violation. At this point you must decide whether there is reasonable suspicion to stop the vehicle; either to conduct further investigation to determine if the driver may be impaired, or for another traffic violation. You are not committed to arresting the driver for DWI based on this initial observation, but should rather concentrate on gathering all relevant evidence that may suggest impairment. Your second task during phase one is to observe the manner in which the driver responds to your signal to stop, and to note any additional evidence of a DWI violation.

***Point out block No. 1 on the slide. Pose this question: "What are some of the kinds of things that might first draw your attention to a vehicle?"***

The first task, observing the vehicle in motion, begins when you first notice the vehicle, driver or both. Your attention may be drawn to the vehicle by such things as:

- A moving traffic violation
- An equipment violation
- An expired registration or inspection sticker
- Unusual driving actions, such as weaving within a lane or moving at a slower than normal speed
- Evidence of drinking or drugs in vehicle

If this initial observation discloses vehicle maneuvers or human behaviors that may be associated with impairment, you may develop an initial suspicion of DWI.





Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Problems Maintaining Proper Lane Position

- Weaving
- Weaving across lane line
- Drifting
- Straddling a lane line
- Swerving
- Almost striking object or vehicle
- Turning with a wide radius



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-5

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***Usually, the probability of DWI increases substantially when a driver exhibits more than one of the cues.***

There is a brochure published by NHTSA that contains these cues. The title is “The Visual Detection of DWI Motorists” DOT HS 808 677.

The first category is:

Problems in maintaining proper lane position. [p=.50-.75]

- Weaving
- Weaving across lane lines
- Drifting
- Straddling a lane line
- Swerving
- Almost striking object or vehicle
- Turning with a wide radius

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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Speed and Braking Problems

- Stopping problems
- Unnecessary acceleration or deceleration
- Varying speed
- 10 mph or more under the speed limit



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-6

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Speed and braking problems. [p=.45-.70].

- Stopping problems (too far, too short, or too jerky)
- Unnecessary acceleration or deceleration
- Varying speed
- 10 mph or more under the speed limit

***Stopping problems include:***

- ***Stopping too far from a curb or at an inappropriate angle***
  - ***Stopping too short or beyond a limit line***
  - ***Jerky or abrupt stops***
  - ***Unnecessary acceleration or deceleration***
  - ***Varying speed***
  - ***10 mph or more under the speed limit***
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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Judgment Problems

- Following too closely
- Improper or unsafe lane change
- Illegal or improper turn
- Driving on other than designated roadway
- Stopping inappropriately in response to officer
- Inappropriate or unusual behavior
- Appearing to be impaired



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-8

Judgment problems. [P=.35-.90].

- Following too closely (tailgating)
- Improper or unsafe lane change
- Illegal or improper turn
- Driving on other than designated roadway
- Stopping inappropriately in response to officer
- Inappropriate or unusual behavior (throwing objects, arguing, etc.)
- Appearing to be impaired

### Typical Reinforcing Cues of the Stopping Sequence

After the command to stop is given, the alcohol impaired driver may exhibit additional important evidence of DWI.

**Ask participants to suggest possible cues that might be observed after the stop command that might reinforce the initial suspicion of DWI.**

Some of these cues are exhibited because the stop command places additional demands on the driver's ability to divide attention.

### ***Point out the dangers inherent with fleeing operators.***

The signal to stop creates a new situation to which the driver must devote some attention. For example, emergency flashing lights, siren, etc., demand and divert the subject's attention.

Signal to stop requires the driver to turn the steering wheel, operate the brake pedal, activate the signal light, etc.

As soon as officer gives the stop command, the subject's driving task becomes more complex.





Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Motorcycle DUI Detection Guide

### Excellent Cues (50% or Greater Probability)

- Drifting during turn or curve
- Trouble with dismount
- Trouble with balance at a stop
- Turning problems
- Inattentive to surroundings
- Inappropriate or unusual behavior
- Weaving



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-10

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### Initial Observations: Visual Cues of Impaired Vehicle Operation (Motorcycles)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated that in 2012, about 27 percent of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had a BAC of 0.08 or higher.

In 2012, NHTSA also estimated that 34 percent of the motorcycle operators involved in crashes had a BAC of .01 or higher.

Source: The Detection of DWI Motorcyclists, DOT HS 807 856, July, 2007 and Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS).

NHTSA sponsored research to develop a set of behavioral cues to be used by law enforcement personnel to detect motorcyclists who are operating their vehicles while impaired. These cues can be used both day and night.

These cues have been labeled as:

- Excellent Predictors
- Good Predictors

*(ANACAPA Sciences, DOT HS 807 839, 1993.)*

Excellent cues (50% or greater probability).

- Drifting During Turn or Curve
  - The most common cause of single vehicle, fatal motorcycle crashes is “Failure to Negotiate Curves”.
  - This type of collision is usually caused by impaired balance and coordination.
  - If you see a motorcycle drifting during a turn or curve, do the rider a favor and pull him or her over.

- Trouble with Dismount
  - Parking and dismounting a motorcycle can be a useful field sobriety test.
  - The operator must decide on a safe place to stop the motorcycle.
  - The operator must then balance their weight on one foot while swinging their other foot over the seat to dismount.
  - Operators having problems dismounting are impaired 50 percent of the time.
- Trouble with Balance at Stop
  - Riders whose balance has been impaired by alcohol and/or drugs often can not maintain control of the motorcycle while stopped.
  - Riders may be observed noticeably shifting their weight from side to side while stopped at a red light or stop sign for any length of time.
- Turning Problems
  - Unsteady during turn of curve
  - As a result of impairment an officer might observe a motorcycle's front wheel or handle bars wobbling as the rider attempts to maintain balance at slow speeds.
  - Late Braking During Turn- An impaired motorcyclist might misjudge the speed or distance to the corner or curve, requiring an application of brakes during the maneuver.
  - Improper Lean Angle During Turn- When a rider's balance or speed decision making is impaired, the rider frequently attempts to sit upright through the maneuver.
  - Erratic Movement During Turn- Unsteady during a turn or curve, brake late, assumes an improper lean angle, or makes erratic movements during a turn or curve
- Inattentive to surroundings
  - Inappropriate or unusual behavior (e.g., carrying or dropping object, urinating at roadside, disorderly conduct, etc.)
  - Weaving

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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Phase Two: Personal Contact

**Interview and  
Observation  
of the Driver**

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**Should  
Driver  
Exit?**

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**Observation of  
the Exit**



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-12

## B. Personal Contact

### Overview Tasks and Decisions

DWI Detection Phase Two: Personal Contact, like Phases One and Three, comprise two major evidence gathering tasks and one major decision. Your first task is to approach, observe, and interview the driver while they are still in the vehicle to note any face to face evidence of impairment. During this face to face contact you may administer some simple pre-exit sobriety tests to gain additional information to evaluate whether or not the driver is impaired. After this evaluation, you must decide whether to request the driver to exit the vehicle for further field sobriety testing.

In some jurisdictions, departmental policy may dictate that all drivers stopped on suspicion of DWI be instructed to exit. It is important to note that by instructing the driver to exit the vehicle, you are not committed to an arrest; this is simply another step in the DWI detection process. Once you have requested the driver to exit the vehicle, your second task is to observe the manner in which the driver exits and to note any additional evidence of impairment.

**You may initiate Phase Two without Phase One. This may occur, for example, at a checkpoint, or when you have responded to the scene of a crash.**

#### *Task One*

The first task of Phase Two, interview and observation of the driver, begins as soon as the driver vehicle and the patrol vehicle have come to complete stops. It continues through your approach to the driver vehicle and involves all conversation between you and the driver prior to the driver's exit from the vehicle.

#### ***Point out block No. 1 on the slide.***

You may have developed a strong suspicion that the driver is impaired prior to the face to face observation and interview. You may have developed this suspicion by observing something unusual while the vehicle was in motion, or during the stopping sequence. You may have

developed no suspicion of DWI prior to the face to face contact. The vehicle operation and the stop may have been normal; you may have seen no actions suggesting DWI.

***Ask participants to suggest situations where this might be the case.***

For example, you may have stopped the vehicle for an equipment/registration violation, or where no unusual driving was evident. In some cases, Phase One will have been absent. For example, you may first encounter the driver and vehicle after a crash or when responding to a request for motorist assistance.

Regardless of the evidence that may have come to light during Detection Phase One, your initial face to face contact with the driver usually provides the first definite indications that the driver is impaired.

### *Decision*

Based upon your face to face interview and observation of the driver, and upon your previous observations of the vehicle in motion and the stopping sequence, you must decide whether there is sufficient reason to instruct the driver to step from the vehicle.

For some law enforcement officers, this decision is automatic since their agency's policy dictates that the driver always be told to exit the vehicle, regardless of the cause for the stop. Other agencies; however, treat this as a discretionary decision to be based on what the officer sees, hears, and smells during observation and interview with the driver while the driver is seated in the vehicle.

If you decide to instruct the driver to exit, closely observe the driver's actions during the exit from the vehicle and note any evidence of impairment.

***Ask participants to suggest circumstances under which it would be appropriate not to instruct the driver to exit.***

***Ask participants to suggest circumstances under which it would be appropriate to instruct the driver to exit.***

***Remind participants that they must always practice appropriate officer safety tactics while the driver exits the vehicle.***

### **Typical Investigation Clues of the Driver Interview**

Face to face observation and interview of the driver allows you to use three senses to gather evidence of alcohol and/or other drug influence:

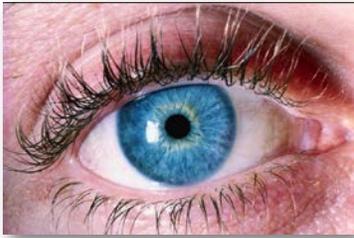
- The sense of sight
- The sense of hearing
- The sense of smell

***Write "see – hear – smell" on dry erase board.***

Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Personal Contact

What do you see?



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

NHTSA

2-13

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### *Sight*

There are a number of things you might see during the interview that would be describable clues or evidence of alcohol and/or other drug influence. Among them are:

***Ask participants to suggest typical things that an officer might see during the interview that would be describable clues or evidence of alcohol and/or other drug influence.***

***What do you see?***

- ***Bloodshot eyes?***
- ***Soiled clothing?***
- ***Fumbling fingers?***
- ***Alcohol containers?***
- ***Drugs or drug paraphernalia?***
- ***Bruises, bumps or scratches?***
- ***Unusual actions?***

***After most major sight clues have been suggested, display next slide.***

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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Personal Contact

### What do you hear?



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

NHTSA 2-15

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### Hearing

Among the things you might hear during the interview that would be describable clues or evidence of alcohol and/or other drug influence are these:

***Ask participants to suggest typical things that an officer might hear during the interview that would be describable clues or evidence of alcohol and/or other drug influence.***

***After most major sound clues have been suggested, display next slide.***

### What do you hear?

- ***Slurred speech?***
  - ***Admission of drinking?***
  - ***Inconsistent responses?***
  - ***Unusual statements?***
  - ***Abusive language?***
  - ***Anything else?***
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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Personal Contact

### What do you smell?



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

NHTSA

2-17

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### Smell

There are things you might smell during the interview that would be describable clues or evidence of alcohol and/or other drug influence. Typically these include:

***Ask participants to suggest typical things that an officer might smell during the interview that would be describable clues or evidence of alcohol or drug ingestion.***

***For officer safety be aware of communicable airborne diseases, etc.***

***After most major odor clues have been suggested, display next slide.***

### What do you smell?

- ***Alcoholic beverages?***
  - ***Marijuana?***
  - ***Cover up odors?***
  - ***Other unusual odors?***
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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Interview/Questioning Techniques

- Asking for two things simultaneously
- Asking interrupting or distracting questions
- Asking unusual questions



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-20

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### Interview/Questioning Techniques

There are a number of techniques you can use to assess impairment while the driver is still behind the wheel. Most of these techniques apply the concept of divided attention. They require the driver to concentrate on two or more things at the same time. They include both questioning techniques and psychophysical (mind/body) tasks.

These techniques are not as reliable as the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests but they can still be useful for obtaining evidence of impairment. **THESE TECHNIQUES DO NOT REPLACE THE SFSTs.**

#### *Questioning Techniques*

The questions you ask and the way in which you ask them can constitute simple divided attention tasks. Three techniques are particularly pertinent:

- Asking for two things simultaneously
- Asking interrupting or distracting questions
- Asking unusual questions.

An example of the first technique, asking for two things simultaneously, is requesting the driver to produce both the driver's license and the vehicle registration. Possible evidence of impairment may be observed as the driver responds to this dual request. Be alert for the driver who:

***Ask participants to suggest possible evidence of impairment that might be observed during the production of the license and registration.***

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Session 2 – Vehicle in Motion and Personal Contact

## Ask Unusual Questions

- What is your middle name?
- What are other unusual questions you can ask?



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 2-23

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The third technique, asking unusual questions, is employed after you have obtained the driver's license and registration. Using this technique, you seek verifying information through unusual questions. For example, while holding the driver's license, you might ask the driver, "What is your middle name?"

***Ask class to suggest other unusual questions that might serve as simple, pre-exit techniques.***

There are many such questions which the driver normally would be able to answer easily, but which might prove difficult if the driver is impaired, simply because they are unusual questions. Unusual questions require the driver to process information; this can be especially difficult when the driver does not expect to have to process information. For example, a driver may respond to the question about the middle name by giving a first name. In this case the driver ignored the unusual question and responded instead to a usual -- but unasked -- question.

***Asking for two things simultaneously and searching for documents while answering questions assesses the ability to divide attention, while asking unusual questions tests the driver's mental faculties.***

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# Instructor Guide

# DWI Detection and SFST Refresher

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

2 Hours

## Session 3

### Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

1-1

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Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

### Colorado Field Validation Study of SFST

- First full field validation study using SFST experienced law enforcement personnel
- 86% correct arrest/release decision based on three test battery (HGN, WAT, OLS)
- 93% of those arrested had a BAC of 0.05 or higher




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-6

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

### Florida Field Validation Study of SFST

- 95% correct arrest decision based on three test battery (HGN, WAT, OLS)
- Validated SFSTs at 0.08 BAC and above




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-7

*“A Colorado Validation Study of Standardized Field Sobriety Test Battery”*

- The Colorado SFST validation study was the first full field study that utilized law enforcement personnel experienced in the use of SFSTs.
- The initial 1977 study utilized only a few experienced officers in DWI enforcement in both a laboratory setting and field setting. These officers received approximately four hours of training in field sobriety testing prior to the laboratory study.
- In the Colorado study, correct arrest/release decisions at a 0.05 BAC were 86% accurate based on the three test battery (HGN, WAT, OLS). 93% of arrested drivers had a BAC of 0.05 or higher. These results, by officers who were trained in the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing curriculum, were substantially higher than the initial 1977 study results.

*Florida Validation Study of the Standardized field Sobriety Test Battery”*

- The Florida SFST field validation study was undertaken in order to answer the question of whether SFSTs are valid and reliable indices of the presence of alcohol when used under present day traffic and law enforcement conditions.
- Correct decisions to arrest were made 95% of the time based on the three test battery (HGN, WAT, OLS).

This was the second SFST field validation study that was undertaken.

This study was the first study conducted at the lower BAC limit of 0.08.

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Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## San Diego Field Validation Study of SFST

- 91% correct arrest decision for 0.08 BAC and above using three test battery (HGN, WAT, OLS)
- HGN is still most reliable of three-test battery and supports arrest decisions at 0.08 BAC




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-8

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## San Diego Field Validation Study of SFST

Based on this study:

- HGN was 88% accurate
- WAT was 79% accurate
- OLS was 83% accurate




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-9

*“Validation of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test Battery at BACs Below 0.10 %”*

- The San Diego SFST validation field study was undertaken because of the nationwide trend towards lowering the BAC limits to 0.08. The question to be answered was “Do SFSTs discriminate at BACs below 0.10%?”
- The study examined the validity of SFST’s for both .08% and .04%.
- Correct arrest decisions were made 91% of the time based on the three-test battery (HGN, WAT, OLS) at the 0.08 level and above.

This is the most current research used to describe the accuracy of the SFSTs.

***Emphasize to participants this is the study that should be referenced in court whenever possible.***

- HGN was 88% accurate
- WAT was 79% accurate
- OLS was 83% accurate

The results of this study provide clear evidence of the validity of the three test battery to support arrest decisions at above or below 0.08. It strongly suggests that the SFSTs also identify BACs at 0.04 and above.

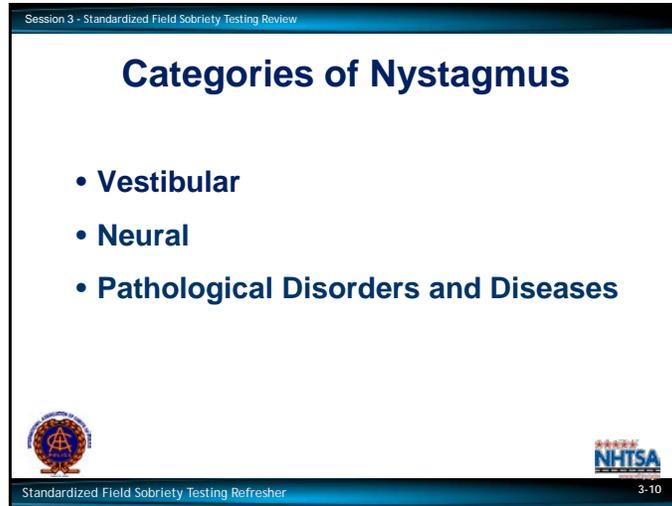
**Results: ..... Three SFST 1990’s Field Studies % Correct**

**Colorado ..... 86% Arrest / Release Decisions**

**Florida ..... 95% Arrest Decisions**

**California ..... 91% Arrest Decisions**

***By properly administering and interpreting the SFSTs in a systematic and standardized manner, officers can obtain results similar to the studies mentioned above.***



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### *Categories of Nystagmus*

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus is not the only kind of nystagmus. There are other circumstances under which the eyes will jerk involuntarily. It is important to know some of the other common types of nystagmus, to be aware of their potential impact on our field sobriety tests.

Nystagmus of several different origins may be seen. The three general categories of nystagmus are:

- Vestibular
- Neural
- Pathological Disorders and Diseases

#### *Vestibular Nystagmus*

Caused by movement or action to the vestibular system that can occur when an individual is spun around and the fluid in the inner ear is disturbed or there is a change in the fluid (temperature, foreign substance, etc.).

#### *Neural Nystagmus*

Caused by some disturbance to the neural system. In this course we will only be concerned with gaze-evoked neural nystagmus.

Alcohol and/or specific types of drugs can cause the following three types of nystagmus. These examples of gaze-evoked neural nystagmus can be visible to the officer during the proper administration of the HGN and VGN tests.

#### *Pathological Nystagmus*

Caused by the presence of specific pathological disorders, which include brain tumors, other brain damage, or some diseases of the inner ear.

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Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus

- Involuntary jerking of the eyes, occurring as the eyes gaze toward the side
- Observation of the eyes for Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus provides the first and most accurate test in the SFST Battery
- Its presence may indicate use of certain other drugs




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-12

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Vertical Gaze Nystagmus

- Involuntary jerking of the eyes (up and down)
- Occurs when the eyes gaze upward at maximum elevation
- Associated with high doses of alcohol and certain other drugs
- Drugs that cause VGN also cause HGN




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-13

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) is an involuntary jerking of the eyes, as they gaze toward the side.

It is the observation of the eyes for HGN that provides the first and most accurate test in the Standardized Field Sobriety Test battery.

Although this type of nystagmus is useful in determining alcohol influence, its presence may also indicate use of Dissociative Anesthetics, Inhalants, and other CNS Depressants (DID Drugs).

***Emphasize to participants that this training course is concerned with Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus and that this procedure has been validated as an accurate indicator for alcohol influence by extensive scientific research.***

Vertical Gaze Nystagmus (VGN) is an involuntary jerking of the eyes (up and down) which occurs when the eyes gaze upward at maximum elevation.

The presence of this type of nystagmus is associated with high doses of alcohol for that individual and certain other drugs.

The drugs that cause VGN are the same ones that cause HGN.

There is no drug that will cause VGN that may not cause HGN.

If VGN is present and HGN is not, it could be a medical condition.

For VGN to be recorded, it must be definite, distinct and sustained for a minimum of four seconds at maximum elevation.

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## HGN Medical Impairment Assessment Procedures

- Check eyes for:
  - Equal pupil size
  - Resting nystagmus
  - Equal tracking
- If eyes do not track together, or pupils are noticeably unequal in size, medical disorders or injuries may be present




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-14

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## HGN Testing: Three Clues

- Lack of smooth pursuit
- Distinct and sustained Nystagmus at maximum deviation
- Onset of Nystagmus prior to 45 degrees




Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-15

### *Procedures to Assess Possible Medical Impairment*

Prior to administration of HGN, the eyes are checked for equal pupil size, resting nystagmus, and equal tracking (can they follow an object together).

If the eyes do not track together, or if the pupils are noticeably unequal in size, the chance of medical disorders or injuries causing the nystagmus may be present.

### *Procedures of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Testing: The Three Clues*

The test you will use at roadside is "Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus" -- an involuntary jerking of the eyes occurring as the eyes gaze to the side. When a person is impaired by alcohol or certain drugs, some jerking will be seen if the eyes are moved far enough to the side.

### ***Explain that CNS Depressants, Inhalants, and Dissociative Anesthetics can cause HGN.***

- The Lack of Smooth Pursuit (Clue Number One) - The eyes can be observed to jerk or "bounce" as they follow a smoothly moving stimulus, such as a pencil or penlight. The eyes of an impaired person will not follow smoothly, i.e., windshield wipers moving across a dry windshield.
- Distinct and Sustained Nystagmus At Maximum Deviation (Clue Number Two) - Distinct and sustained nystagmus is evident when the eye is held at maximum deviation for a minimum of four seconds and continues to jerk toward the side.

### ***Point out that some unimpaired people may exhibit slight jerking of the eye at maximum deviation, but this will not be evident or sustained for more than a few seconds.***

- Onset of Nystagmus Prior To 45 Degrees (Clue Number Three) - The point at which the eye is first seen jerking. If the jerking begins prior to 45 degrees it is evident that the person has a BAC above 0.08, as shown by recent research.

The higher the degree of impairment, the sooner the nystagmus will be observable.

Officers are reminded to ask questions about the subject's eye and general health conditions prior to administering the HGN test. If a subject responds or volunteers information that he or she is blind in one eye or has an artificial eye, the officer should make note of that and may



## Administrative Procedures

- Check for eyeglasses
- Verbal instructions
- Position stimulus (12-15 inches and slightly above eye level)
- Check for equal pupil size and resting nystagmus
- Check for equal tracking
- Lack of smooth pursuit
- Distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation
- Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees
- Total the clues
- Check for vertical nystagmus



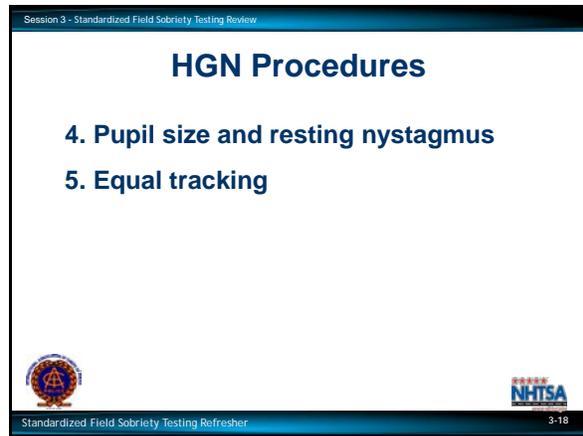
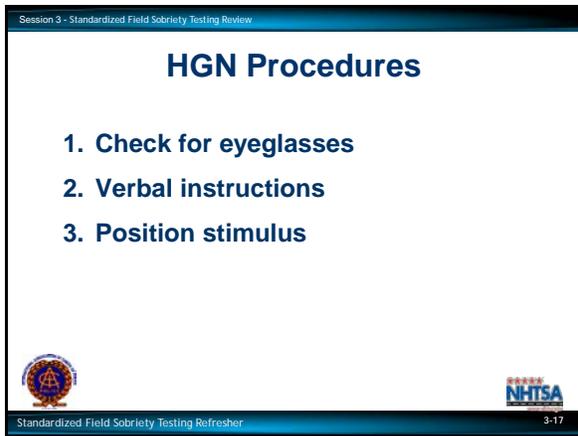
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Horizontal and Vertical Gaze Nystagmus can be observed directly and does not require special equipment. You will need a contrasting stimulus for the subject to follow with their eyes. This can be a penlight or pen. The stimulus used should be held slightly above eye level, so that the eyes are wide open when they look directly at it. It should be held approximately 12 - 15 inches from the subject's nose. Remain aware of your position in relation to the subject at all times.

**OFFICER SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY ON ANY TRAFFIC STOP.**

### Administrative Procedures

- Check for eyeglasses
  - Verbal instructions
  - Position stimulus (12-15 inches and slightly above eye level)
  - Check for equal pupil size and resting nystagmus
  - Check for equal tracking
  - Lack of smooth pursuit
  - Distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation
  - Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees
  - Total the clues
  - Check for vertical nystagmus
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### *Administrative Procedures for Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus*

It is important to administer the HGN test systematically using the following steps to ensure that nothing is overlooked.

There are 10 steps in the systematic administration of the HGN test.

Step 1: Check for Eyeglasses.

Begin by instructing the subject to remove eyeglasses, if worn. (Note if subject wears contacts, especially colored contacts because some colored contacts may affect the ability to compare pupil size.)

***Point out that eyeglasses may impede the subject's peripheral vision, and may also impede the officer's ability to observe the eye carefully.***

It does not matter whether the subject can see the stimulus with perfect clarity. They just need to be able to see and follow it.

***Remind participants that nystagmus is not a vision test.***

Step 2: Verbal Instructions.

Give the subject the appropriate verbal instructions:

Point out that officers' should note whether subject sways, wobbles, etc. while trying to balance.

- Put feet together, hands at the side
- Keep head still
- Look at the stimulus
- Follow movement of the stimulus with the eyes only
- Keep looking at the stimulus until told the test is over

***Emphasize that these are the major points that must be conveyed during the verbal instructions.***



Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## HGN Procedures

6. Check for lack of smooth pursuit
7. Check for distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation
8. Check for onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-19

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## HGN Procedures

9. Total the clues
10. Check for Vertical Gaze Nystagmus



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-20

Step 6: Lack of Smooth Pursuit. Check the left eye for lack of the "Smooth Pursuit" clue. If the eye is observed to jerk while moving, that is one clue.

Check the right eye for lack of the "Smooth Pursuit" clue and compare.

**Remind participants to make at least two complete passes in front of the eyes to check this clue.**

Step 7: Check the right and left eye for the "distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation" clue. If the jerkiness is distinct and sustained, that is one clue.

**Emphasize that the jerking must be definite, distinct and sustained in order to score this clue. Remind participants to check each eye at least twice for this clue.**

**Check the right eye for the "distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation" clue and compare.**

**Point out that in most cases no white should be showing in the corner of the eye when observing this clue.**

Step 8: Onset of Nystagmus Prior to 45 Degrees. Check the left eye for the "onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees" clue. If the jerking begins prior to 45 degrees, that is one clue.

**Remind participants to check each eye at least twice for this clue. Point out that, for many subjects, nystagmus clues will appear in the sequence listed.**

Check the right eye for "onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees" clue, and compare.

Step 9: Total the clues

Maximum number of clues possible for each eye: 3

Total maximum number of clues possible for both eyes: 6

**Also, point out that the subject's performance may not be exactly identical in both eyes.**

**That is, as BAC increases, many people first show inability of smooth pursuit, then show distinct jerkiness at maximum deviation, and finally show an onset within 45 degrees.**

**However, that may not always be true.**







Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Three Clues of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus

- Lack of smooth pursuit
- Distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation
- Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-22

### Three Clues of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus

*It is important that participants start with the subject's left eye first. Then check the right eye for the same clue. This procedure should be used for all three clues.*

When we administer the HGN test, we look for three specific clues as evidence of alcohol influence or influence caused by CNS depressants, inhalants or Dissociative Anesthetics.

We check each eye independently for each clue.

***Remind the participants to check each eye twice for each clue.***

For standardization, begin with the subject's left eye. Check for the first clue. Next, check right eye for same clue. Repeat this procedure for each clue starting with left eye, then right eye. Compare and document the results.

When we are checking an eye, it is good practice to administer the test by the numbers each time, to make sure that no step is overlooked.

**EMPHASIZE THAT: OFFICER SAFETY IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE WHEN ADMINISTERING THESE TESTS.**

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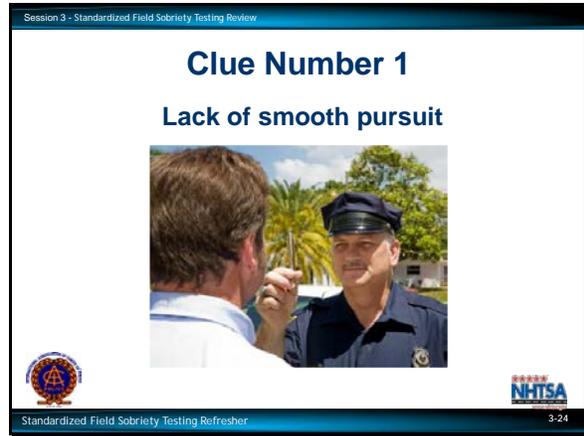
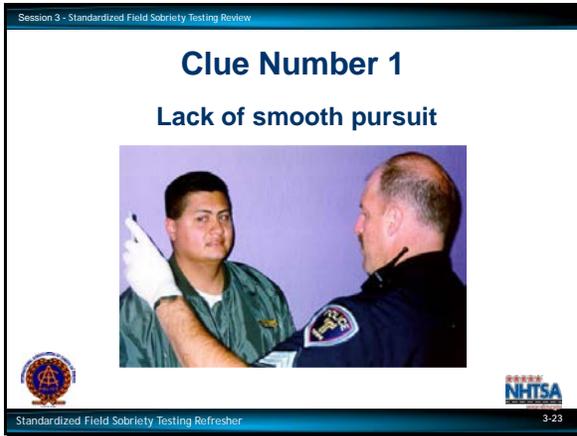
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*Clue No. 1: Lack of Smooth Pursuit*

The first clue requires that the subject move the eye to follow the motion of a smoothly moving stimulus.

***Emphasize that subject must keep the head still and follow the stimulus with the eyes only.***

The stimulus may be the eraser on a pencil, the tip of a penlight, the tip of your finger, or any similar small object.

***Emphasize here that it is best to use a stimulus which contrasts with the background.***

Begin by holding the stimulus vertically approximately 12 - 15 inches (30 - 38 cm) in front of the subject's nose, and slightly above eye level.

***Point out that when stimulus slightly higher than eye level, subject will have to open eyes wide to focus on it. Wide open eyes make it easier to see the nystagmus.***

Move the stimulus smoothly all the way out to the right (checking subject's left eye first) then move the stimulus smoothly all the way across the subject's face to the left side (checking the subject's right eye), then back to center.

Make at least two complete passes with the stimulus

If a person is not impaired by alcohol (or drugs that cause HGN), the eyes should move smoothly as the object is moved back and forth.

Analogy: Movement of the eyes of a person not impaired by alcohol (or drugs that cause HGN) will be similar to the movement of windshield wipers across a wet windshield versus an impaired person and windshield wipers moving across a dry windshield.

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Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Mechanics of Clue Number 1

- Move object steadily at a speed that takes approximately 2 seconds to bring the eye from center to side
- Make at least two complete passes in front of the eyes



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-25

*The Mechanics of Clue Number 1*

It is necessary to move the object smoothly in order to check the eye’s ability to pursue smoothly.

The stimulus should be moved from center position, all the way out to the right side (checking subject's left eye) where the eye can go no further, and then all the way back across subject's face all the way out to the left side where the eye can go no further (checking subject's right eye) and then back to the center.

**Demonstrate.**

The object must be moved steadily, at a speed that takes approximately 2 seconds to bring the eye from center to side.

**Demonstrate.**

In checking for this clue, make at least two complete passes in front of the eyes.

**Demonstrate.**

If you are still not able to determine whether or not the eye is jerking as it moves, additional passes may be made in front of the eyes.

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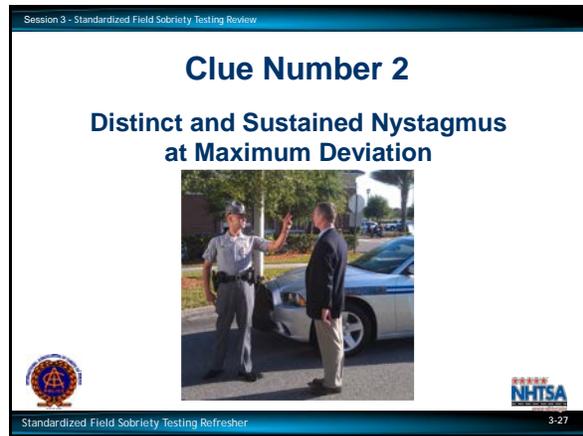
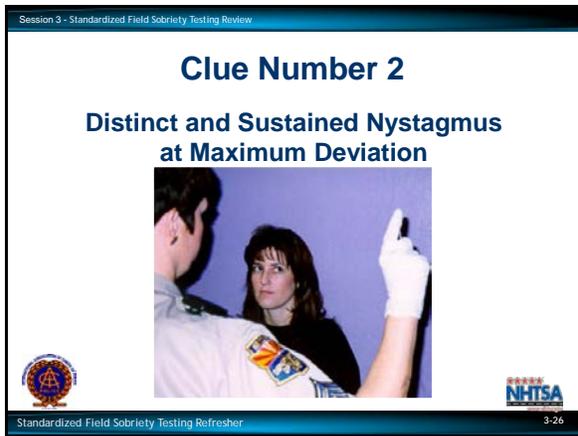
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### *Clue No. 2: Distinct and Sustained Nystagmus at Maximum Deviation*

Once you have completed the check for lack of smooth pursuit, you will check the eyes for distinct and sustained nystagmus when the eye is held at maximum deviation, beginning with the subject's left eye.

#### *The Mechanics of Clue Number 2*

Once again, position the stimulus approximately 12 - 15 inches (30 - 38 cm) in front of subject's nose and slightly above eye level.

**Demonstrate.** Move the stimulus off to the right side (checking subject's left eye) until the eye has gone as far as possible.

#### ***Demonstrate holding the stimulus steadily off to the side.***

Hold the stimulus steady at that position for a minimum of four (4) seconds, and carefully watch the eye.

***Point out that four (4) seconds is a relatively long period of time. You cannot simply hold the eye to the side for an instant, and expect to observe distinct jerking.***

Then, move the stimulus back across the subject's face all the way out to the left side (subject's right eye).

Four seconds will not cause fatigue nystagmus. This type of nystagmus may begin if a subject's eye is held at maximum deviation for more than 30 seconds.

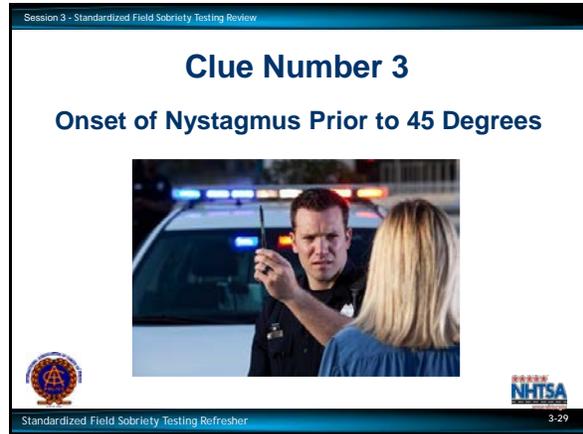
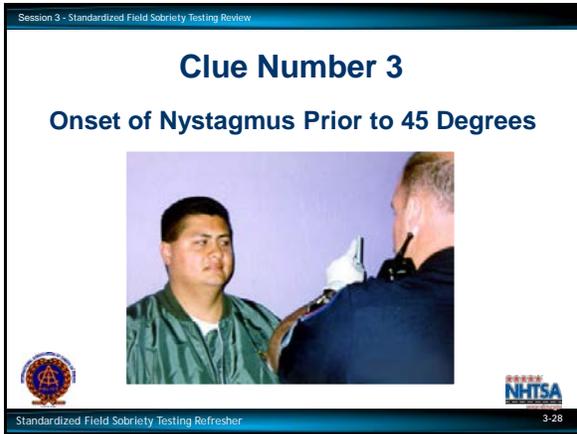
Hold the stimulus steady and carefully watch the eye.

If the person is impaired, the eye is likely to exhibit definite, distinct and sustained jerking when held at maximum deviation for a minimum of 4 seconds.

#### ***Emphasize this point.***

In order to "count" this clue as evidence of impairment, the nystagmus must be distinct and sustained for a minimum of 4 seconds.





*Clue No. 3: Onset of Nystagmus Prior to 45 Degrees*

Once again, position the stimulus approximately 12 - 15 inches (30 - 38 cm) in front of subject's nose and slightly above eye level.

**EMPHASIZE OFFICER SAFETY.**

The angle of onset of nystagmus is simply the point at which the eye is first seen jerking.

Examples: With someone at a very high BAC (0.20+), the jerking might begin almost immediately after the eye starts to move toward the side. For someone at 0.08 BAC, the jerking might not start until the eye has moved nearly to the 45 degree angle.

Generally speaking, the higher the BAC, the sooner the jerking will start as the eye moves toward the side.

If the jerking begins prior to 45 degrees, that person's BAC could be 0.08 or above.

**REMINDE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF HGN IS NOT TO BE USED TO ESTIMATE SPECIFIC BAC LEVEL.**

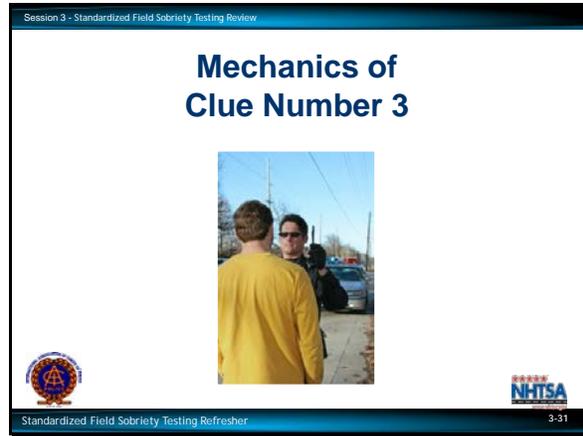
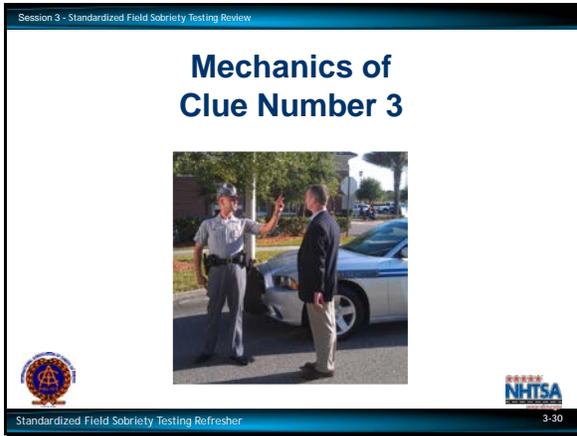
It is not difficult to determine when the eye has reached the 45 degree point, but it does require some practice.

***Instruct participants that whatever distance you position the stimulus from the nose, you will reach 45 degrees when you have moved the stimulus an equal distance to the side. (i.e., If you start with the stimulus 12 inches from the nose, move it 12 inches to the side.)***

If you start with the stimulus approximately 12 - 15 inches (30 - 38 cm) directly in front of the nose, you will reach 45 degrees when you have moved the stimulus an equal distance to the side. Two other important indicators can be used to determine if the eye is within 45 degrees.

***Point out some people's eyes may exhibit no white in the corner prior to 45 degrees.***

At 45 degrees, some white usually will still be visible in the corner of the eye (for most people).



### *The Mechanics of Clue No. 3*

The stimulus is positioned approximately 12 - 15 inches from (30 - 38 cm) subject's nose and slightly above eye level. It is necessary to move the stimulus slowly to identify the point at which the eye begins to jerk.

Start moving the stimulus towards the right side (left eye) at the speed that would take approximately 4 seconds for the stimulus to reach a 45 degree angle.

#### ***Demonstrate stopping the stimulus, and holding it steady.***

As you are slowly moving the stimulus, watch the eye carefully for any sign of jerking.

#### ***Demonstrate movement at that speed.***

When you see the jerking begin, immediately stop moving the stimulus and hold it steady at that position.

With the stimulus held steady, look at the eye and verify that the jerking is continuing.

If the jerking is not evident with the stimulus held steady, you have not located the point of onset. Therefore, resume moving the stimulus slowly toward the side until you notice the jerking again.

#### ***Point out that nystagmus doesn't go away once the eye stops moving. If the officer actually has found the point of onset, the eye will continue to jerk when the stimulus is held steady.***

When you locate the point of onset of nystagmus, you must determine whether it is prior to 45 degrees.

Verify that some white is still showing in the corner of the eye.

#### ***Demonstrate stopping the stimulus, and holding it steady.***

As you are slowly moving the stimulus, watch the eye carefully for any sign of jerking.

#### ***Demonstrate movement at that speed.***







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## Psychophysical Field Sobriety Tests

### Walk and Turn

#### *Test Stages*

Like all divided attention tests, Walk and Turn has two stages.

They are:

- Instructions stage
- Walking stage

Both stages are important, because they can affect the subject's overall performance on the test.

#### *Test Conditions*

Whenever possible, the Walk and Turn test should be conducted on a reasonably dry, hard, level, non-slippery surface. There should be sufficient room for subjects to complete nine heel-to-toe steps. Recent field validation studies have indicated that varying environmental conditions have not affected a subject's ability to perform this test.

The original SCRI studies suggested that individuals over 65 years of age or people with back, leg or inner ear problems had difficulty performing this test. Less than 1.5% of the test subjects in the original studies were over 65 years of age. Also, the SCRI studies suggest that individuals wearing heels more than 2 inches high should be given the opportunity to remove their shoes. Officers should consider all factors when conducting SFSTs.

***Stress to participants to consider age along with environmental factors, location, injury, or physical ailments while administering this test. The importance of the totality of all factors should not be overlooked.***

***Point out that subjects with any form of any unusual footwear (i.e., flip flops, platform shoes, etc.) should be afforded the opportunity to remove that footwear prior to the test.***

***Remind participants that prior to administering psychophysical tests to ask the subject if they have any physical problems or disabilities.***

## Safety Precautions

- Keep subject to your left when starting demonstration
- Be aware of surroundings
- Officer should not turn his/her back to the subject for safety reasons



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### *Procedures for Walk and Turn Testing*

#### ***Remind participants of officer safety precautions:***

- ***Keep subject to your left when starting demonstration***
- ***Be aware of surroundings (environment)***
- ***Emphasize that the Officer should not turn his/her back to the subject for safety reasons.***

Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Walk and Turn Test Clues

- **Cannot keep balance while listening to instructions**



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-36

*Test Interpretation*

You may observe a number of different behaviors when a subject performs this test. Original research demonstrated that the behaviors listed below are likely to be observed in someone with a BAC at or above 0.08. Look for the following clues each time this test is given:

Cannot keep balance while listening to the instructions. Two tasks are required at the beginning of this test. The subject must balance heel-to-toe on the line, and at the same time, listen carefully to the instructions. Typically, the person who is impaired can do only one of these things. The subject may listen to the instructions, but not keep balance.

Record this clue if the subject does not maintain the heel-to-toe position throughout the instructions. (Feet must actually break apart or step off the line.) Do not record this clue if the subject sways or uses the arms to balance but maintains the heel-to-toe position.

***Instructor may break away from the heel-to-toe stance at this point.***

***Demonstrate actions that constitute "Cannot keep balance while listening to instructions," and demonstrate other actions that do not justify recording this clue.***

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Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Walk and Turn Test Clues

- Starts too soon
- Stops while walking
- Does not touch heel-to-toe



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-37

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Starts too soon. The impaired person may also keep balance, but not listen to the instructions. Since you specifically instructed the subject not to start walking "until I tell you to begin," record this clue if the subject does not wait.

***Emphasize that this clue can't be recorded unless subject was told not to start walking until directed to do so.***

***Stress to the participants that these first two clues, like all clues in this test, can be accumulated only once.***

***Demonstrate.***

Stops while walking. The subject stops while walking. Do not record this clue if the subject is merely walking slowly.

***Emphasize that it is because of this clue that it is important to inform the subject not to stop walking once the test begins.***

Does not touch heel-to-toe. The subject leaves a space of more than one half inch between the heel and toe on any step.

***Point out that a gap of at least one half inch is necessary to record this clue.***

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Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## Walk and Turn Test Clues

- Steps off line
- Uses arms to balance
- Improper turn
- Incorrect number of steps



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-38

Steps off the line. The subject steps so that one foot is entirely off the line.

Uses arms to balance. The subject raises one or both arms more than 6 inches from the sides in order to maintain balance.

***Point out that a movement of the arms of six or more inches from the side is required to record this clue.***

***Demonstrate each of these clues.***

***Point out that it is often possible to note two of these clues simultaneously. Examples: (Demonstrate)***

Improper turn. The subject removes the front foot from the line while turning. Also record this clue if the subject has not followed directions as instructed, i.e., spins or pivots around or loses balance while turning.

***Explain that there may be times when the suspect takes a wrong number of steps or begins the heel-to-toe walk with the wrong foot resulting in a turn on the right foot instead of the left. If this occurs the suspect would normally be assessed a clue for an incorrect number of steps and not assessed a clue for an improper turn if the turn was made using a series of small steps as instructed and the suspect did not lose his/her balance while attempting the turn.***

***This scoring is consistent with the original research and training conducted by the Southern California Research Institute and with the administration and scoring of the Walk and Turn test in the San Diego Field Study.***

***Demonstrate various ways of turning incorrectly (i.e., pivots, spins).***

Incorrect number of steps. Record this clue if the subject takes more or fewer than nine steps in either direction.

***Emphasize that it is the number of steps that the subject physically takes that matters here. Mistakes in the verbal count do not justify recording this clue.***







Session 3 - Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Review

## One Leg Stand Test Clues

- Sways while balancing
- Uses arms to balance
- Hopping
- Puts foot down



Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher 3-43

### *Test Interpretation*

You may observe a number of different behaviors when a subject performs this test. The original research found the behaviors listed below are the most likely to be observed in someone with a BAC at or above 0.08. When administering the One Leg Stand test, we look for certain specific behaviors. Each behavior or action is considered one clue. There is a maximum number of 4 clues on this test. Look for the following clues each time the One leg Stand test is administered.

The subject sways while balancing. This refers to side to side or back and forth motion while the subject maintains the one leg stand position.

***Emphasize that swaying means a distinct, noticeable side to side or front to back movement of the elevated foot or of the subject's body.***

Slight tremors of the foot or body should not be interpreted as swaying.

***Demonstrate swaying.***

Uses arms to balance. Subject moves arms 6 or more inches from the side of the body in order to keep balance.

***Point out that a movement of the arms of six inches or more from the side is sufficient to record this clue.***

***Demonstrate uses arms to balance.***

Hopping. Subject is able to keep one foot off the ground, but resorts to hopping in order to maintain balance.

***Demonstrate hopping.***

Puts foot down. The subject is not able to maintain the one leg stand position, putting the foot down one or more times during the 30 second count.

***Demonstrate putting the foot down.***







# Instructor Guide

# DWI Detection and SFST Refresher

Session 1 - Written Examination and Program Conclusion

1 Hour 50 Minutes

## Session 4

### Written Examination and Program Conclusion



DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher

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