

MATT BRUNER – DANGERS OF DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING TRANSCRIPT

[00:00]

(Peppy music plays while introductory slides show the Institute for Transportation and Iowa Department of Transportation logos and then the video title of “Dangers of Drug-Impaired Driving”)

[00:06] [Speaker – Matt Bruner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Bureau]:

(Music quiets)

A lot of times, we’ll say that law enforcement runs into drug-impaired drivers after something has happened, where there’s been a crash, that vehicle has gone off the roadway,...

[00:15]

(Brief b-roll zooms out on a still image of a crashed vehicle with a crushed hood and broken front windshield, with a police car and ambulance, both with their lights on, and an EMT in the dark background)

...they’ve hit another vehicle, or anything like that too, and the officer or the witnesses say, “Hey, something is off.” We’re very, very good at understanding alcohol-impaired driving.

[00:28]

(Brief b-roll zooms out on a still image of a vehicle dashboard, with effects on the windshield suggesting a blurry view of the rear of a braking vehicle, while added text states, “916 people were killed in crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver in Iowa from 2009–2018” and credited to “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”)

We’ve heard about it for decades on the news, on radio, and we hear in driver’s ed and all these other education aspects that alcohol-impaired driving is bad. What we’re identifying now based on statistics and firsthand observations in the field is that drug-impaired driving, so those drugs other than alcohol, are on the rise, and it’s a difficult thing for our drivers and society to comprehend.

[00:49]

(Brief b-roll zooms in on a still image of emergency vehicles, including an ambulance, with their lights flashing and a person with reflective safety gear and a helmet, with additional text that states, “Research shows marijuana nearly doubles the risk of a driver being involved in a motor vehicle crash, resulting in serious injury or death” and credited to “Li, M-C., J. E. Brady, C. J. DiMaggio, A. R. Lusardi, K. Y. Tzong, and G. Li. 2012. Marijuana Use and Motor Vehicle Crashes. Epidemiologic Reviews, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 65-72”)

A lot of these drugs are very dose dependent. They're very dependent on tolerance. And when that comes into play, there's no hard and fast line that, yes, "Hey, you're taking two of these pills, you shouldn't drive."

[01:00]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver being passed by a sheriff's truck on a rural highway)

When you think, really, about what drivers are doing, it's an incredible number of divided attention tasks, right?

[01:07]

(A series of brief b-roll videos show a young driver slightly turning the steering wheel, tapping the gas pedal, tapping the brake pedal, and putting a vehicle in reverse)

You have to be able to manipulate the steering wheel. You have to be able to manipulate to the gas pedal. You have to manipulate the brake pedal, the gear shift. In addition to that, as you're driving, not only do you have to think about those things, you have to think about everything else around you.

[01:20]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver coming around a curve as a bicyclist going the opposite direction appears and the driver gives a slight wave to the biker)

You have to divide your attention constantly to all these different factors, and a lot of it is done subconsciously, where you are just doing it and your brain's functioning and trying to process all the information at the same time.

[01:31]

(Brief b-roll video shows a young driver over-turning around a curve before a passenger grabs the steering wheel to correct the driver)

Sometimes, if alcohol or drugs come into play, it cuts off that ability to divide your attention, and that's where the driving task becomes very dangerous, because the repercussions of getting behind the wheel when you are impaired by, again, prescription drugs or non-prescription drugs, could be deadly, not just for you, but for others.

[01:49]

(Video of Matt Bruner fades to black as louder peppy music resumes, while outro slides provide a disclaimer that reads, "This video was developed by the Institute for Transportation (InTrans) at Iowa State University for the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) with the purpose to provide the material for driver education instructors in Iowa. InTrans is responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the information presented herein as of May 1, 2025. Driver education instructors may use the material in its entirety or may use any of the material individually. The material is for educational purposes only. It is strictly prohibited to sell any

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