



Drug-Impaired Driving Toolkit for Employers

Drug-Impairment Methods of Detection: Testing and Technology

- 🍷 Testing methods to determine drug use include blood, urine, oral fluid (primarily saliva), sweat, and hair samples.
- 🍷 A toxicology test cannot identify addiction issues, or the amount of drug used or when.
- 🍷 A toxicity test is only able to tell if certain drugs are (or have recently been) in the body.
- 🍷 Signs of marijuana in blood, urine, hair and oral fluid can last up to three weeks.
- 🍷 Blood testing is considered the standard for identifying the presence of drugs with DUID traffic stops.
- 🍷 The United States Supreme Court case Missouri v. McNeely, 569 U.S. 141 (2013) ruled that police must generally obtain a warrant before subjecting a drunken-driving suspect to a blood test, and that the natural metabolism of blood alcohol does not establish a per se exigency that would justify a blood draw without consent.



- 🍷 Urine testing: a urine specimen is collected and sent to a certified laboratory for analysis to determine drug use.
- 🍷 Lab results are mailed to the officer and added to the arrest report.
- 🍷 Results can be used as evidence when determining a DUID conviction.
- 🍷 Traces of opiates can be found in the urine a few days after they are taken.
- 🍷 Oral Fluid (OF) testing: Oral Fluid (primarily saliva) is collected with an absorptive device placed in the mouth. The device is then sent to a laboratory for testing to obtain results.
- 🍷 OF testing reflects free drugs in the blood. Active drugs detected in saliva (e.g., THC or cocaine) are indicative of recent intake, not historical use.
- 🍷 OF can be collected more quickly following a traffic incident which is a more reliable indicator of drugs present in the body at the time of the stop.