

**KNOW YOUR LIMIT: VERMONT IMPAIRED DRIVING SUMMIT**

OCTOBER 20, 2021

KILLINGTON, VERMONT

Address and discuss highway safety issues with colleagues and experts in education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency services with a focus on impaired driving.

Hosted by:



In cooperation with: VDTSEA



**Morning – Oscar Wilde Ballroom – SHSO, VHSA & VDTSEA Tracks**

- 7:45 Registration Opens
- 7:45 Meet and Greet with Attendees and Vendors  
Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 **Honor Guard Ceremony**
- 8:40 **Welcome | Opening Remarks**
- Lt. Kevin Geno, Chair, Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
  - Sgt. Jay Rikken, Vermont State Police
- 9:00 **Keynote: Drugged Driving—A Problem for Everyone**
- Joanne Thomka, Director, National Traffic Law Center, National District Attorneys Association
- 10:00 Break / Visit the Vendors
- 10:15 **An Ever-Changing Landscape: Evaluating DUI Drug Trends in Vermont and Exploring Oral Fluid Testing on the National Level**
- Jeffery Dukette, Forensic Chemist, Toxicology Section, Vermont Forensic Lab
  - Amy Miles, Director, Forensic Toxicology Program, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
- 11:15 **Arrest to Restoration**
- Carol Plante and Karen Dolan, Vermont Safe Driver Program
- 12:15 Begin Lunch Buffet / Visit the Vendors
- 12:30 **Lunch: State Highway Safety Office, VHSA, and VDTSEA Awards**

**Afternoon**

**SHSO & VHSA Track - Ballroom**

**VDTSEA Track – Northstar I & II**

1:15     **Mellanby Effect, Impairment, and Homeostasis: Why Impaired Drivers Are Never Safe Behind the Wheel!**

- Tom Heller, Detective, Drug Recognition Expert, Seattle Police Department

1:15     **VDTSEA Business Meeting**

2:30     Break / Visit the Vendors

2:30     Break / Visit the Vendors

2:45     **Not your Grandfather’s DUI: Reconceptualizing the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and Individual Performance (75 mins)**

- Lt. James Roy, Colchester PD
- Steven Brown, Deputy State’s Attorney, Windham County

2:45     **Foster Teen Program Follow Up**

- Amanda Churchill, LICSW, Policy & Practice Specialist, DCF Family Services

4:00     **Closing Remarks**

- Sgt. Jay Rikken, Vermont State Police

3:30     **Dealing with Grief: Emotional Recovery After Losing a Student**

- EAP counselor (TBD)

4:00     **Closing Remarks and Certificates**

4:15     **Traffic Stop Demonstration**  
(Meet in front of hotel)

<b>Presentation Descriptions and Speaker Biographies</b>	
<b>8:40</b>	<b>Welcome   Opening Remarks</b>
<b>Biography</b>	<b>Lt. Kevin Geno, Rutland County Sheriff’s Department</b> , is the board chairperson for the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance and the coordinator for Rutland County highway safety and manages the Safe Highway Accident Reduction Program (SHARP) focusing on, educational outreach, and sustained traffic enforcement for seatbelt compliance, impaired driving, excessive speed, and distracted driving.
<b>Biography</b>	<b>Sgt. Jay Rikken, Vermont State Police</b> , is a 15-year veteran. He is assigned to the Special Operations Unit where he serves as the impaired driving subject matter expert for the Vermont Department of Public Safety. Sgt. Rikken has been a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) since 2008 and a DRE Instructor since 2015. He presents both in Vermont and regionally on topics related to impaired driving, traffic safety, and communication.
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Keynote: Drugged Driving—A Problem for Everyone</b>
<b>Description</b>	Incidents of drugged driving and poly substance impaired driving are on the rise across the United States. All traffic safety stakeholders need to work together to address the multiple issues and challenges to combat and reduce these potentially life-threatening events on our roadways. During this presentation, we will first educate ourselves about the growing problem in Vermont and surrounding areas, the current prosecutorial and enforcement issues, and resources to address the offender’s needs to enable behavior change while still being held accountable for their actions.
<b>Biography</b>	<b>Joanne Thomka, Director, National Traffic Law Center, National District Attorneys Association</b> , has vast experience in the traffic safety community. Her work included serving as the Bureau Chief of the DWI Unit in the Onondaga County District Attorney’s Office in Syracuse, NY, and participation and membership in several traffic safety related committees including the Transportation Research Board’s (TRB) Traffic Law Enforcement Committee, the National Sheriffs’ Association’s (NSA) Traffic Safety Committee and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation’s DWI Working Group. Joanne continues to teach prosecutors, law enforcement and other traffic safety personnel on issues pertaining to impaired driving, trial advocacy and other highway safety issues.

## Presentation Descriptions and Speaker Biographies

<b>10:15</b>	<b>An Ever-Changing Landscape: Evaluating DUI Drug Trends in Vermont and Exploring Oral Fluid Testing on the National Level</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Forensic Toxicology is an ever-changing science and new drug trends emerge on a constant basis. This presentation will provide an overview of the latest testing occurring at the Vermont Forensic Laboratory. In addition to the testing going on within the state, this presentation will provide information on the latest applications of oral fluid testing in DUI investigations. You will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vermont's DUI Drug testing program</li><li>• DUI Drug trends in Vermont and how things are changing</li><li>• Oral fluid testing on a national level including ongoing projects and trends</li><li>• Pros and cons of oral fluid testing and the lessons learned so far</li></ul>
<b>Biography</b>	<p><b>Jeffery Dukette, Forensic Chemist, Toxicology Section, Vermont Forensic Lab</b> received a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Michael's College and a Master of Forensic Science degree from the University of New Haven (Conn.) His primary responsibilities include testing blood samples for alcohol and impairing drugs, maintaining the evidential breath alcohol testing instruments used throughout Vermont, and providing expert testimony on alcohol physiology and pharmacology, impairment, and testing methods. Jeff attended the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training held in Vermont in 2020 and is an active member of the International Association for Chemical Testing.</p>
<b>Biography</b>	<p><b>Amy Miles, Director, Forensic Technology Program, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene</b> has over 20 years of experience in forensic toxicology. Amy is also the National Resource Toxicologist, a position created in partnership with Responsibility.org. Amy provides expert court testimony and interpretation of laboratory reports for coroners, medical examiners, attorneys, and law enforcement officers. Amy also provides expert consultation for drug impaired driving cases both locally and nationally. Amy attended the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) school held in Wisconsin in 2004 and provides training and support for the DRE program not only in Wisconsin but across the country. Amy is a past toxicology representative on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) DRE Technical Advisory Panel. Amy is the President of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). In 2019, Amy received the Public Service Award from NHTSA and in 2020 she received the IACP DRE ambassador award.</p>

**Presentation Descriptions and Speaker Biographies**

<b>11:15</b>	<b>Arrest to Restoration</b>
<b>Description</b>	The Vermont Safe Driver Program is a statewide educational program offered in partnership with the Governor’s Highway Safety Program that provides Safe Driving classes at locations around the state to people who have been cited with impaired and distracted driving charges. Join us to learn about class activities, discussion, and presentations that participants experience to develop an understanding of the profound human consequences of unsafe driving, to be accountable for their actions and to create a safe driving plan to avoid future offenses.
<b>Biography</b>	<b>Carol Plante, Project Director, Vermont Safe Driver Program,</b> oversees ten sites throughout Vermont that implement the program and serves as a Safe Driving Class facilitator in Chittenden County. She is the Director of the Montpelier Community Justice Center, having been in the field of restorative justice for 15 years. Carol brings her depth of experience and facilitation skills to her work to inform restorative processes and policies that will help ensure the best outcomes for people and communities affected by crime and conflict.
<b>Biography</b>	<b>Karen Dolan, Coordinator, Vermont Safe Driver Program,</b> for Chittenden County has been in this role for five years and during that time has facilitated 50 Safe Driving sessions. Additionally, Karen is a restorative practitioner with the Essex Community Justice Center. Her work creates opportunities for communities, schools, and families to build connection, navigate conflict and understand the ripple effects of each other’s actions. In 2021, Karen began her first term as a State Representative and works to incorporate restorative principles into the legislature to better serve the state.
<b>1:15</b>	<b>Mellanby Effect, Impairment, and Homeostasis: Why Impaired Drivers Are Never Safe Behind the Wheel!</b>
<b>Description</b>	In this session, Seattle Police Detective Tom Heller will explain the Mellanby Effect, Homeostasis, Retrograde Extrapolation, and other scientific principles related to detection and recognition of impaired drivers and other anomalies. You will learn to articulate, document, and explain these principles and apply them to operational decision-making, as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “biphasic” nature of alcohol intoxication</li> <li>• Zero order kinetics and retrograde extrapolation</li> <li>• Homeostasis as a “negative feedback loop”</li> <li>• Techniques to overcome obstacles in jury trials</li> </ul>
<b>Biography</b>	Seattle Police Detective Tom Heller has been a Drug Recognition Expert since 2011 and a DRE Instructor since 2016, with thousands of hours of instructional experience and a passion for traffic safety enforcement, education and policymaking.

<b>Presentation Descriptions and Speaker Biographies</b>	
<b>2:45</b>	<b>Not your Grandfather’s DUI: Reconceptualizing the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and Individual Performance</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Impaired driving investigations and prosecutions have become increasingly more challenging due to the proliferation of drug use in our society. The goal of the presentation will be to help people understand the complex nature of drug versus alcohol impairment and to understand the inherent challenges of prosecuting these cases. The presentation will provide a brief history of Vermont’s impaired driving laws and a current summary of requirements for successful drugged driving prosecutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How drugs effect the human body</li> <li>• How the presentation of drug impairment can appear different than it traditionally appears in alcohol</li> <li>• The legal requirements juries must find to convict an operator of driving under the influence of drugs other than alcohol</li> <li>• Strategies and suggestions for approaching a drugged driving case</li> </ul>
<b>Biography</b>	<p><b>Steven M. Brown, Deputy State’s Attorney, Windham County,</b> was raised in Wilmington, Vermont, has a BA in political science from Gettysburg College and a JD from Vermont Law School. Since 2007 he has handled hundreds of impaired driving cases including assisting in investigating and prosecuting fatal impaired driving incidents. He has tried over 50 cases, including Aggravated Murder, 2nd Degree Murder, Drug Trafficking, Aggravated Assault, Kidnapping, and DUI 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th offenses. In 2020, he received the Impaired Driving Prevention and Enforcement Award from the Vermont Highway Safety Office of the Vermont Agency of Transportation. He has twice been appointed as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont.</p>
<b>Biography</b>	<p><b>Lt. James Roy, Colchester Police Department,</b> is a native Vermonter and has been a police officer in Vermont for 36 years, 34 of which have been with Colchester. He has dedicated most of his career to Impaired Driving initiatives to include teaching at the Vermont Police Academy and in several states—Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Arizona and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Lt. Roy is considered a subject matter expert by NHTSA in the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program and Impaired Driving programs. He is a past Chair of the Drug Recognition Expert Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and has been recognized numerous times as an expert by Vermont’s district courts and the United States District Court (District of Vermont).</p>