

Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training

Basic Curriculum Model Lesson Plan

LESSON TITLE: INTOXICATION CASES 3.8

SUBJECT:	Intoxication Cases
AZ POST DESIGNATION:	3.8
HOURS:	1
COURSE CONTENT:	An examination of the indicators of alcohol intoxication as well as alcohol intoxication-like symptoms that may mask certain medical conditions.
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:	Upon completion of this block of instruction, using class notes, handouts and other support materials as references, within the allotted time, the student will:
3.8.1	Identify the following indicators of alcohol intoxication: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Slurred/altered speech.B. Poor coordination.C. Lack of concentration.D. General disorientation.E. Altered breathing.F. Bloodshot – “glassy” eyes.G. Tremors.H. Nausea/vomiting.I. Facial complexion/color.J. Unconsciousness.K. Slow reaction time.L. Impaired vision.
3.8.2	Identify the alcohol intoxication-like symptoms associated with each of the following medical conditions:

- A. Epilepsy.
- B. Diabetic shock.
- C. Diabetic coma.
- D. Mental illness.
- E. Stroke.

DATE FIRST PREPARED: August 2000

PREPARED BY: SME Committee

REVIEWED – REVISED:	SME Committee	DATE: August 2000
REVIEWED – REVISED :	SME Committee	DATE: December 2001
REVIEWED – REVISED :	AZ POST (Word)	DATE: December 2002
REVIEWED – REVISED:	SME Committee	DATE: July 2004
REVIEWED – REVISED :	SME Committee	DATE: April 2008
REVIEWED – REVISED:	Lt. Dave Kelly, ALEA	DATE: November 2009
REVIEWED – REVISED :	SME Committee	DATE: May 2010
REVIEWED – REVISED:	SME Committee	DATE: November 2012
REVIEWED – REVISED :	SME Committee	DATE: November 2012
REVIEWED – REVISED :	AZPOST (DocX)	DATE: February 2022
REVIEWED – REVISED:		DATE:
REVIEWED – REVISED:		DATE:
REVIEWED – REVISED:		DATE:
AZ POST – APPROVAL:	Richard Watling	DATE: November 2011
AZ POST – APPROVAL:	Lori Wait	DATE: February 2022

INSTRUCTOR REFERENCES:

CLASS LEVEL: Student

TRAINING AIDS:

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGY: Interactive lecture and class discussion.

SUCCESS CRITERIA: 70% or higher on a written, multiple-choice examination.

COMPUTER FILE NAME: 3.8 Intoxication Cases

DATE RELEASED TO THE SHARE FILE: May 27, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Instructor – (self) introduction.
- B. Preview of performance objectives.

II. INDICATORS OF ALCOHOL INTOXICATION**P. O. 3.8.1****A. Slurred/altered speech.****P. O. 3.8.1A**

- 1. The subject may have difficulty in proper pronunciation of all but the simplest of words.
- 2. The subject may have disjointed speech patterns. Words may be omitted or stated out of order.
- 3. The subject may not remember certain words and insert inappropriate or incorrect words as fillers.

B. Poor coordination.**P. O. 3.8.1B**

- 1. The subject may have difficulty standing or walking without swaying.
- 2. The subject may not be able to manipulate small objects such as: Car keys, driver's license, wallet or registration papers.
- 3. The subject may have significant general motor skill impairment.
- 4. The subject's lack of coordination will be especially evident when asked to divide attention between physical and mental tasks.

C. Lack of coordination.**P. O. 3.8.1C**

- 1. The subject may not be able to follow simple directions or concentrate on a specific task.
- 2. The subject may appear to not listen to or acknowledge basic instructions.
- 3. The subject's mind may easily wander.

D. General disorientation.**P. O. 3.8.1D**

- 1. The subject may not be aware of his/her location.
- 2. The subject's perception of time may be impaired.
- 3. The subject's sense of direction may be impaired.
- 4. The subject may be unaware of his/her surroundings.

- 5. The subject may appear confused and afraid.

- E. Altered breathing. **P. O. 3.8.1E**
 - 1. Abnormal breathing.
 - a. Hyperventilate.
 - b. Slow and deep breathing.
 - 2. The subject may have labored breathing. If breathing is significantly labored or the subject is unconscious, call for medical assistance.

- F. Bloodshot/glassy eyes. **P. O. 3.8.1F**
 - 1. Red or bloodshot appearance.
 - 2. Glassy or watery appearance.

- G. Tremors. **P. O. 3.8.1G**
 - 1. Extremities may display a slight trembling.
 - 2. The subject may not have good control of extremities and may give the appearance of having tremors.
 - 3. Tremors can result from acute alcohol withdrawal. Call for medical assistance.

- H. Nausea/vomiting. **P. O. 3.8.1H**
 - 1. Nausea and vomiting are common symptoms in persons who are significantly intoxicated or have reached their personal tolerance level.
 - 2. If a vomiting person is not fully conscious, the officer must ensure the person does not aspirate or choke on the vomit.

- I. "Ruddy" complexion. **P. O. 3.8.1I**
 - 1. The subject may appear flushed and have a reddish coloration.
 - 2. It may appear like rosy cheeks, this is a common symptom.

- J. Unconsciousness/unresponsiveness. **P. O. 3.8.1J**
 - 1. Give verbal or physical stimuli to determine if the person is passed out, sleeping or

unconscious.

2. Unconscious persons may be the result of:
 - a. A diabetic coma or other medical emergency.
 - b. Head injury or other injury.
 - c. Intoxicated by alcohol or drug overdose.
3. Officers will ensure that prompt medical attention is provided to any unconscious person.
4. Check for medical I.D. tags and medication vials on his/her person.
5. If the person cannot be revived, medical personnel will be called to the scene for transportation to the hospital.

K. Slow reaction time.

P. O. 3.8.1K

1. Due to the depressant effects alcohol has on the central nervous system, all reaction times to stimulus will likely be slowed.
2. Subject may appear very lethargic and give the appearance of moving in slow motion.

L. Impaired vision.

P. O. 3.8.1L

1. Subjects may see double or have great difficulty in focusing.
2. Subjects may strain when reading.

III. ALCOHOL INTOXICATION-LIKE SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

P. O. 3.8.2

A. Epilepsy.

P. O. 3.8.2A

1. Grand mal seizures (convulsions).
2. Hallucinations of sight, sound or taste.
3. Painful sensation in the abdomen.
4. Loss of consciousness.
5. Continuous muscular contraction – stops breathing.
6. May lose bowel/bladder control.

B. Diabetic shock. (Low blood sugar)**P. O. 3.8.2B**

1. Dizziness/fainting/headache. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** *Low blood sugar, more common than diabetic coma.*
2. Convulsions.
3. Drooling.
4. Profuse sweating.
5. Pale, moist skin.
6. Tremors.
7. General muscular weakness.
8. Unconsciousness.

C. Diabetic coma (high blood sugar).**P. O. 3.8.2C**

1. Musky/fruity odor on breath – can often be mistaken as the odor of an alcoholic beverage.
2. Convulsions/dizziness.
3. Fever.
4. Intense abdominal pain/vomiting.
5. Red, dry, warm skin.
6. Frequent urination.
7. Unconsciousness.

D. Mental illness / Alzheimer's / Dementia**P. O. 3.8.2D**

1. Confusion.
2. Fear/anxiety.
3. Loss of contact with reality.
4. Anger/mania.

5. Withdrawal/depression.

E. Stroke.

P. O. 3.8.2E

1. Change in level of mental ability.

2. Decreased level of consciousness.

3. Possibly convulsions/severe headache.

4. Trouble speaking or inability to speak.

5. Paralysis or weakness on one (1) or both sides (mostly unilateral).

6. Loss of vision or dimness/pupils unequal in size.

7. Loss of bowel/bladder control.

8. Nausea and/or vomiting.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Review of performance objectives.

B. Final questions and answers.

C. Instructor closing comment(s).