

Field Sobriety Testing for the Marine Environment

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Why Something Different?



Why have something different?

- HGN
- WAT
- OLS
- Custody Issues
- Surfaces Suited to Standing
- Overweight/Age
- Injuries



The Project

- NASBLA/USCG - Grant
- So. Cal. Research Institute
- 3-year Study (2007-2009)
- 4 Seated Tests for MLEO's



Standardized & Validated



Published and Peer Reviewed

Southern California Research Institute

Validation of Standardized Field Sobriety
Tests for Use in the Marine Environment



Dary Fiorentino
Bergetta Dietel
Dulcemonica Jimenez

September 1, 2010



Seated Test Battery



- HGN
- Finger to Nose
- Palm Pat
- Hand Coordination





Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN)

- 88% Correct Arrest Decision
- Revalidated past FST Studies
- The most reliable test we have





Finger to Nose

- 65% Correct Arrest Decision
- Loss of fine motor skills and comprehension
- 47
- 9





Palm Pat

- Loss of fine motor skills and comprehension
- 57% Correct Arrest Decision

Hand Coordination

- Walk and Turn Test –
With your hands*
- Loss of fine motor
skills and
comprehension
- 52% Correct Arrest
Decision



Are the Tests Adequate?



Perspective?



Boater's Perspective

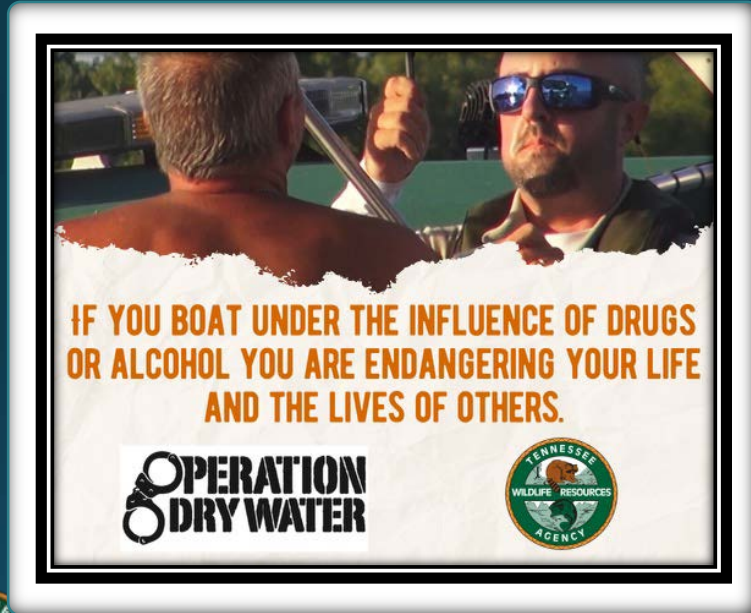
- “It’s the lake, it’s what we do”
- Look around man – everyone out here is drunk”
- This is the last place we can go to have a good time”

Victim's Perspective

- Life altering consequences
- A Preventable Crime
- BUI is DUI



DA's Perspective?



- It's Just a Boat
- This is just as serious as DUI
- Comfortability in Prosecution



Judge's Perspective?



Judge's Resources



Resources / Seated Standardized Field Sobriety Testing

STANDARDIZED TESTING

SEATED BATTERY OF STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING

The seated battery of standardized field sobriety testing (SFST) was developed to address a number of issues faced by marine patrol officers. These issues involve having a suspect perform balance-related tests after being on the water for all or part of the day, as well as transporting suspects on the water and finding a suitable testing location.

Additionally, when weight or mobility becomes an issue when performing the standing battery of SFST, the seated battery gives law enforcement another option for determining if an individual is under the influence. In these instances the seated battery of SFST become useful for highway patrol officers as well.

If you have not already begun seeing cases involving this testing in your state it is just a matter of time. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief exposure to them ahead of time so there are no surprises in a hearing or during trial.

RESOURCES

- [Letter to Judges, Prosecutors & Hearing Officers](#)
- [Validation of Sobriety Test for the Marine Environment](#)
- [Development of Sobriety Tests for the Marine Environment](#)
- [Nine Steps On A Seven-Step Boat](#)



LEARN MORE

For more information on the seated battery of standardized field sobriety testing or to request training in the seated battery of SFST please visit the [NASBLA BOAT Program website](#).



Summary

- Solid Tests
- Solid Arrest Decisions
- Acceptance
- Safer Waterways

