



CRIME

MORE ACCIDENTS WITH DRUGGED DRIVERS AS MEDICAL MARIJUANA GROWS

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:29pm by [Christopher Santarelli](#)

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Deadly repercussions have continued to accompany growing medical marijuana use in California. The [Los Angeles Times](#) reports on statistics showing the surging number of car accidents involving high drivers over the last decade, which local law enforcement attribute to the growing number of medical marijuana users:

“The most recent assessment by the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), based on random roadside checks, found that 16.3% of all drivers nationwide at night were on various legal and illegal impairing drugs, half them high on marijuana.

In California alone, nearly 1,000 deaths and injuries each year are blamed directly on drugged drivers, according to CHP data, and law enforcement puts much of the blame on the rapid growth of medical marijuana use in the last decade. Fatalities in crashes where drugs were the primary cause and alcohol was not involved jumped 55% over the 10 years ending in 2009.”

While President Obama has gone from a hands-off approach to now [pushing federal prosecution](#) of anyone in the business of growing or supplying marijuana for medical patients, the medical marijuana movement continues to pick speed as now one third of all states allow such sales. The growing legality of medical marijuana seems mind-boggling considering most states don't even have a formal standard on the amount of the drug drivers should, if at all, be allowed to have in their blood.

“While 13 states have adopted zero-tolerance laws, 35 states including California have no formal standard, and instead rely on the judgment of police to determine impairment.

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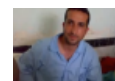


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Even the most cautious approach of zero tolerance is fraught with complex medical issues about whether residual low levels of marijuana can impair a driver days after the drug is smoked. Marijuana advocates say some state and federal officials are trying to make it impossible for individuals to use marijuana and drive legally for days or weeks afterward."

The call for a standardized system to judge impairment is debated by national leaders in law enforcement, as some feel the current system works well to identify impaired drivers, and any future legal limit or medical test would not bring about major change. However federal officials and local prosecutors argue that the lack of a standard makes convictions harder to obtain.

"In October, a San Diego jury acquitted Terry Barraclough, a 60-year-old technical writer and medical marijuana user, on manslaughter charges in a fatal crash that occurred shortly after he had smoked marijuana.

A blood test showed he had high levels of active marijuana ingredients in his blood, but the jury heard conflicting expert testimony from toxicologists about the possible effects.

Martin Doyle, the deputy district attorney who prosecuted Barraclough, said the acquittal showed that the lack of a formal legal limit on marijuana intoxication makes such prosecutions tough."

Over [500,000](#) Americans currently use legal medical marijuana. Do you want to share the road with any of them?

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HEANK

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:31pm

Charge Them with DUI , FINES & JAIL TIME ! NEXT!

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HAPSYRECHEDIN

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:38pm

It's no use Hawk, the puffing crowd will never admit the whole marijuana thing just isn't innocuous, and that there's no such thing as "I'm only hurting myself".

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LIBERALMEDADROPPEDBALLOONNE -HEAVEN

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:39pm

Carcinogens found in Marijuana:

Tetrahydro cannabinol,
Ammonia,
Hydrogen cyanide,
Nitrogen oxides,
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon,
Chromium,
Nickel,
Arsenic,
Selenium,
Anthrax.
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WOULD YOU SMOKE OR INGEST THESE POISONS ALONE? LET ALONE A PLANT THAT CONTAINS 430 KNOWN CARCINOGENS.

As a recreational drug, marijuana is really bad for your health.

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VANDIE

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:39pm

Well Duh!! Who would have thought!! Fence off California!

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CANNIBY

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:40pm

How many in cigarettes, the Government's preferred form of legal addiction?

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LADBACKTAPS

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:40pm

Hey! Like BOOZE... Regulate! It should be the Right to CHOOSE what you do. Consequences will follow though if your outta line. I got no problem with smoking a joint when your home, out back after work and you ain't goin to hurt anyone.

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CANNIBY

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:42pm

I know there are very detailed statistics about how many traffic-related deaths alcohol causes but I have never seen any relating to marijuana... why?

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ARENDIM

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:43pm

This is because the law is not clear in California. Make it legal, as it has been shown to be much safer than alcohol.. then make driving while impaired illegal.. Oh I forgot.. driving while impaired is already illegal, in every state including California.

Or we could use the logic: "If we pass more laws against it, people already breaking laws will not break the new ones." Driving while under the influence of anything including sleep deprivation is already against the law in California. Regardless several international studies have shown marijuana consumption and driving is not nearly as dangerous as alcohol.. but anyone with common sense should know it's both illegal and stupid.

The CHP would happily arrest people for having bad breath if given ample opportunity. Why anyone even considers their opinion is beyond me. Perhaps they have never lived in California or dealt with the A\$\$&@*(#) they call the CHP.

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CANNIBY

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:44pm

Carcinogens, that is.

I guess I could ask my neighbor, he speaks through a hole in his throat.

THORE

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LADDA

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:44pm

WHAT? You mean people high on pot get in auto accidents? What a surprise!!

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LESBANPACKINGHOLLOWPONTIS

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:45pm

Freedom isn't free. It comes with sacrifices. We could end all highway deaths by banning all cars, but the regulatory and personal freedom toll that would take on our society would far outweigh the benefit from mass mobility.

Likewise, the war on drugs has taken a huge regulatory and personal freedom toll on our society, one that far outweighs the loss of life of victims of a few irresponsible individuals.

tl;dr: Don't blame the drugs (inanimate objects). Blame the drug abusers (sovereign individuals with wills of their own).

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BUCKEUPAMECA

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:46pm

I learned it from watching you dad!...I learned it from watching you...

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DARAK

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:50pm

I would think people that smoke medical marijuana would not want to drive due to their medical problems, and also putting other peoples lives at risk that are on the road. Take a cab or let someone else do the driving. Kick back and enjoy the ride.

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OPEN

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:53pm

Marijuana is not bad for you! It is all just a lie put out by the Hearst Empire to save their timber mills! The real enemy is tobacco. Cigarettes kill! But MaryJane gives life (its a medicine you know!) Cigarettes are smoked by soldiers. Weed makes love, not war. Second hand smoke from cigarettes makes babies and puppies explode. But smoke from a joint makes smurfs pop up out of the ground...

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CHEXWIZ

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:54pm

In CA , cigarette smoke is dangerous
and pot smoke is therapeutic

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RAYBLUE

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 8:55pm

Most were probably hit from behind when driving too slow.
Or waiting for the stop sign to turn green.

No hope.....

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TUREYB

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:02pm

I looked up the states after California went dumb and have a policy that I do not go across their borders. If everyone hits these states in the pocketbooks they will see the light.

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JENMIND

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:03pm

I keep hearing the argument that weed doesn't hurt anyone, well gang, if you were around in the 60's and 70's like I was, you know how many got left behind with brains that were damaged, that never lived up to the potential they had. Granted they were hard core-and some went on to worse stuff, but I saw enough then to know it was very dangerous and it still is. Why on earth anyone would want more impaired drivers by legalizing it is beyond me. The ones using it for medical reasons have to be just as careful as anyone using medications-but weed kind of takes inhibitions away and they seem to think they are perfectly okay dokey! They really were right about the egg and your brains on drugs.

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CHSI

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:04pm

If they set up DUI check points on Nov 7th, BO will lose a lot of votes.

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EDMOREN

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:05pm

Many people get in accidents after eating Hamburgers. Ban them.

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SPARKYD

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:09pm

Well DUH. Why have you allowed your azzes to go faster than your brains?

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EDMOREN

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:09pm

Jenny Lind

It might have been the stronger drugs like LSD that damaged them.

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ADOCTORSABORSNOTMIGHT

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:09pm

Enforce each individual's right to life and property, and people will do what it takes to pay attention while driving so they don't hurt anyone.

But infringing on their right to drug their own bodies is unconstitutional.

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GFSY12

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:14pm

Time for 3 strikes and you are out to hit again this is how the country collects money. But are we surprised. They won't let you smoke a cigarette but you can smoke marijuana. They want you brain dead so they can control you surprised ?

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CHPS1

Posted on July 3, 2011 at 9:16pm

Hooka Tooka My Soda Cracker. (Chubby Checker)

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