

Features

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Deathly Vision

By: Sydney Parker

In an effort to help stop teen drunk driving, devices known as fatal vision goggles, mimics the vision distortion caused by alcohol and are used by teens.

Fatal vision goggles are specially designed and manufactured to simulate the visual impairment caused by alcohol or other drugs. Viewing through the goggles is rather clear, but confusing to the mind. The wearer experiences a loss of equilibrium, which is one of the effects of intoxication. Both the wearer and those observing are convinced that such impairment makes activities with known risks, such as driving vehicles, very dangerous.

"I got the goggles through two grants," Mrs. James, the nurse at Colony High, claimed. "I want them to be available to everyone. If they can prevent a tragedy – if it makes teens think twice and not do it – then it's successful."

The principle underlying the fatal vision program is to demonstrate how quickly impairment can turn fun into devastating consequences. Program materials will help you put this dynamic principle into action. When people experience impairment first-hand while trying to do a task, the lesson sticks. Research shows that those who learn from hands-on

experience retain two to four times more than those who learn from just

they think one or two drinks is okay. Then they put on these goggles, and

a police officer or teacher makes a presentation concerning alcohol and other drug impairment, the goggles are a unique way to drive home the points of the presentation. Law enforcement agencies have also used the goggles for the training of their own officers. When officers take training that includes observing drunk/drugged behaviors, instructors dose some of the participants with alcohol to provide subjects for observation. Such practices have always been a real concern to the police executives, but unavoidable. Now officers can observe the impaired behavior exhibited by a participant wearing fatal vision goggles. This makes the training safer and less complicated for all concerned.

"I've worn the goggles once before," sophomore Isabella Bartolo stated. "It messes with your equilibrium, but it's worth it. Everyone should try them to see what driving under the influence would be like."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that, on average, a death occurs every 30 minutes and an injury occurs every two minutes because of impaired driving. An experience like this should be taken advantage of; it might just change one's mind before that first drink happens.



Health classes use the new drunk goggles for their unit in alcohol and what it does to your thought process.

listening or listening and seeing.

"I think it makes them [teens] realize that they aren't as in control as they think," James said. "A lot of people don't think alcohol affects them at all;

their perception changes."

Law enforcement officers and schools use the goggles in many different ways. A common use is to use the goggles in anti-drunk driving programs. When