Is the World Going to Pot?

According to a recent article in Campus Safety magazine, the leading journal of education institution law enforcement and security, Columbia University researchers have concluded that marijuana contributed to 12% of all U.S. traffic deaths in 2010. Nearly half of those who died in traffic accidents and tested positive for pot were under the age of 25. These disturbing percentages represent a three-fold increase over the statistics in 1990.

This disturbing trend may be due in part to new ways of delivering marijuana that is more potent than ever. Unlike the green leafy substance smoked through a glass pipe or bong, the “new” marijuana is delivered in the form of concentrated resins extracted from the plant. While the level of THC, which causes the marijuana high, in street-level weed is about 15%, THC levels in the resins, which look like wax, butter, oil or amber colored glass shards (called “shatter”), range from 60-80%.

This new marijuana platform goes by several names, including dabs, butter, budder, amber, honey, oil, or BHO, which stands for Butane Honey (or Hash) Oil. The process of using this form of marijuana is known as “dabbing.”

There are additional dangers of dabbing over more traditional forms of marijuana ingestion. These dangers include hallucinations, loss of consciousness, and high levels of impairment. Furthermore, the extraction method to obtain the resins commonly uses butane. Sadly, there have been several explosions, including one at the University of Montana, which killed and severely burned individuals.

Curiously, escalating traffic deaths and greater impairment levels associated with marijuana coincide with the popular movement in many states and the District of Columbia to legalize the drug. At the same time, 60% of high school seniors do not think marijuana is harmful according the research cited by Campus Safety magazine.

NOVA Police conduct training on drugs and narcotics. Contact our community outreach officer, Tony Ong (tong@nvcc.edu) or NOVA Police through Dispatch (703-764-5000) if you are interested in receiving this training and/or bringing it to your class.

Vandalism, not a Victimless Crime

Vandalism: The willful destruction or defacing of property is a crime. It’s expensive to repair and it makes our communities unattractive and unsafe.

Graffiti

From obscene and violent language scrawled on a public bathroom door to elaborate murals on a wall, graffiti appears in many forms. But it’s all the same. If it’s not on the artist’s property, it’s vandalism, and it’s a misdemeanor or, if damage is greater than $1000, a felony (Virginia Code 18.2-137).

Graffiti is often the first sign that gangs are taking over a neighborhood. Gang “taggers” act as messengers for the gang, and use graffiti to mark their turf, advertise their exploits, and challenge or threaten rival gangs. Graffiti gives criminals the impression we don’t care about our community, making it an attractive target for crime. Other forms of vandalism include broken street lights, public telephones/emergency call boxes, writing or torn pages in library books, broken doors, or stalls in public restrooms, and keying someone’s car.
Vandalism, not a Victimless Crime (cont’d)

Don’t let this happen to your community. Take a stand against graffiti and make sure graffiti is reported to the NOVA or local police who will ensure it’s removed. It takes persistence, but by working together, we can keep the effects of vandalism to a minimum, save money, and make our campuses safer.

Public Safety Spotlight

Carrie Tinker was hired by NOVA in August 2014. She started her career in California when she joined the Air Force late 2004. The Air Force moved Carrie and her husband to Southern Virginia and she pursued her college degree in criminal justice, while maintaining her military reserve status. She received her BS in criminal justice with a minor in information systems in 2013. She intends to begin work on her Master’s degree presently.

Officer Tinker was hired by the Newport News Police Department in 2007 and served with that agency for almost 5 years. After moving to Northern Virginia in 2011, she was hired by Purcellville Police. She comes to NOVA with more than 6 years police experience and has gained significant experience as an Intoxilizer operator, instructor, bicycle officer, and a field training officer. She has more than 10 years in the Air Force Reserves. She and her husband have four children.
Prepare Your Pets for Emergencies

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disaster.

The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, tornado, or terrorist attack may depend on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

In an emergency, you may need to stay in your home or perhaps you’ll decide to leave. If you do evacuate, DO NOT leave your pets behind. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own. Plan now where your pet will stay if you have to evacuate: a friend’s or relative’s home, a pet-friendly hotel or motel, or a kennel or veterinarian’s office. If you would like additional information about how to make a plan, you can also visit http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/makeaplan or contact an OEM professional through NOVA Dispatch.

Items to consider when making a pet emergency supply kit:

- At least three days’ food in airtight, waterproof container (include can opener, if necessary)
- At least three days’ water specifically for your pet
- Food and water bowls
- Extra collar with ID tag and leash
- Current photos of you and your pet together, in case you get separated
- Crate or other pet carrier that is large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down, with blankets or towels for bedding
- Litter box and pet litter, if appropriate; also, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags

Familiar items such as toys and treats

One other thought – in an emergency, including severe weather, don’t leave your pets outside. Bring them in.

Learn more
http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals/petshelter.shtml
http://www.ready.gov/animals
NOVA Police will host “how to stay safe” training sessions, college-wide, beginning in February. Training sessions will be offered during the day and evenings at each campus in accordance with the following schedule:

Please RSVP for this training. If you need to request accommodations, please e-mail Outreach Officer Tony Ong at tong@nvcc.edu or call 703-933-1850.

**Topics include:**
- NOVA safety resources and police services
- Personal safety tips
- Active shooter response overview
- And much more

**Dates and times: (Locations will be announced in the February newsletter)**
- February 16, Alexandria Campus, noon-1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm, AA-158
- February 17, Annandale Campus, noon-1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm in CA-303
- February 18, Medical Education Campus, noon-1pm and 6 pm to 7 pm, Room 253
- February 19, Loudoun Campus, noon-1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm, LW-105
- February 20, Woodbridge Campus, noon-1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm, Seefeldt 106
- February 23, Manassas Campus, noon-1 pm and 6 pm to 7 pm, MC-240

**NOVA Sexual Assault Services & NOVA PD Donation Drive**

**Help those in need!**

**January 26th — February 16th, 2015**

We will be collecting items for *Domestic Violence Shelters* in the surrounding areas. These shelters provide free services to victims of domestic violence and their children.

**Bring your donations to any of the 6 NOVA Police Stations.**

**Help us make a difference in the lives of individuals experiencing domestic violence!**

**Items needed:**
- Gas Gift Cards
- Cleaning Products
- Hygiene Products
- Household Products (pots, pans, blankets, towels, etc.)
- Socks for women and children

For more information, please contact Angela Acosta at aacosta@nvcc.edu or 703-323-2406.