

Our Notes- SFST Refresher Course with NHTSA & IACP:

- No “and” in counting during the One Leg Stand. It should be **one thousand one, one thousand two**.
- The wording on the One Leg Stand instructions also is wrong where it says “toe pointed parallel to the ground” **it should be “keeping your raised foot parallel to the ground”**. We were told that they never intended for it to say pointed. The video is also wrong and they are supposed to be working to get everything fixed.

These are some of our notes on other points that they also want instructors to stress and make sure they are teaching correctly:

- Equal tracking should be the same pace as smooth pursuit.
- Improper Turn Scoring- They stated that it does not matter if the suspect leads/turns on the wrong foot. As long as they do not lose balance, remove foot, or use arms. (See below.)

“Improper turn. The subject removes the front foot from the line while turning. Also record this clue if the subject has not followed directions as instructed, i.e., spins or pivots around or loses balance while turning.”

Note: There may be times when the suspect takes a wrong number of steps or begins the heel-to-toe walk with the wrong foot resulting in a turn on the right foot instead of the left. If this occurs the suspect would normally be assessed a clue for an incorrect number of steps and not assessed a clue for an improper turn if the turn was made using a series of small steps as instructed and the suspect did not lose his/her balance while attempting the turn. This scoring is consistent with the original research and training conducted the Southern California Research Institute and with the administration and scoring of the Walk and Turn test in the San Diego Field Study. Demonstrate various ways of turning incorrectly (i.e., pivots, spins).

- Do not use the word “clues” in court. Say “lack of smooth pursuit”, “angle of onset” ... SAY WHAT YOU SAW!
 - Do not use the terms “pass” or “fail”. They didn’t fail the test. They demonstrated signs and symptoms of impairment. This is not a test, it is an evaluation. (Attorneys have a hard time getting around this!)
 - Read the research paper on the San Diego Field Study. Know and talk about this study! (Less time on Florida and Colorado studies, more time on San Diego) Why???
1. It is most recent. (1998)
 2. NHTSA sponsored
 3. PEER REVIEWED
 4. All officers involved were updated before the study
 5. Accuracy rates are better

*Side note: HGN, Walk and Turn & One Leg Stand examined validity of SFST at .08 & .04

We were told that during this last update edition (2013), the printing company NHTSA used “dropped the ball” and printed the wrong copy. We were told that the mistakes should be addressed in the next edition of the manual, but that we may be “stuck with” the videos for a while.