



SUBSTANCE FACILITATED SEXUAL ASSAULT (SFSA)

Substance Facilitated Sexual Assault (SFSA) occurs when drugs or alcohol are used to minimize resistance, alter memory, and compromise an individual's ability to consent to sexual activity.

Bar Staff's Role in Prevention

- Don't allow patrons to purchase more than one drink at a time. Each individual needs to come to the bar to get their own drink. You have the right to deny anyone a drink for any reason. Use this power if you suspect ill intent.
- Get to know your patrons as much as possible. Sometimes perpetrators will back off when they know there are witnesses. Relationship building lets patrons know you care and sends a message to perpetrators that they won't get away with assault.
- Talk with intoxicated patrons to offer support. Ask how they are getting home or if they have a sober friend. Offer them some water. If they are receiving unwanted attention from another person, you may ask the harasser to leave.
- If you suspect a drink may have been drugged, you may pull the drink to keep as evidence for the police. Put the drink behind the bar or in the office, and make sure it is secure until police arrive.
- Gather information about a suspected perpetrator (Do you have their ID/Credit Card? Take a picture of the person with your phone. Are there cameras in your establishment? Are there others who can provide a description?) Note the time and date, and any identifying clothing.
- Alert coworkers about possible predatory behavior. Work together to watch over the situation.
- Develop relationships with local taxi drivers. Keep a list of those you know and trust.
- Lookout for extreme intoxication. Take appropriate action to reduce the potential that they may be taken advantage of. If a patron becomes extremely intoxicated after only one or two drinks, they may have been drugged.

What drugs are often used?

Alcohol remains the **most commonly used** chemical in crimes of sexual assault.

Less commonly used substances may include: GHB (Liquid X), **Benzodiazepines** (such as Xanax or Rohypnol "Roofies"), **Ketamine** (Special K), **MDMA** (Ecstasy), **Zolpidem** (Ambien)

Alcohol increases the effects of these drugs. These drugs are used for their sedative effect and the memory-impairment qualities. The drugs are typically odorless, colorless, and tasteless when placed in liquid (except for GBL which can be salty). 5-30 minutes after ingestion, the victim of the drugging may struggle to talk or to move and may eventually pass out (this is the point when someone is most susceptible to sexual assault). Most drugs have passed through the system within 36 hours. Many victims of substance-facilitated sexual assault frequently blame themselves because they drank or used drugs. It is essential to remember that it is not his or her fault, that the aggressor is the one who took advantage of his or her diminished capacity.

What are symptoms of being incapacitated?

- Verbal incoherence
- Excessive intoxication after only 1 or 2 drinks
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Chills
- Unconsciousness
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Blurred vision
- Poor motor skills
- Seizures
- Difficulty breathing

For additional information, call STSM at 803-790-8208.