

THE PROGRAM

The Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) is an officer trained to determine if a motorist is impaired by substances other than (or in addition to) alcohol. The DRE will perform a 30-45 minute evaluation on the impaired driver. After the evaluation, the DRE will be able to determine the category of drug(s) that is impairing the driver's ability to drive safely.

Drug Evaluation and Classification training is sponsored by the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety. It is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and administered by the International Association of Chief's of Police (IACP). The training is free of charge and offered annually.

The successful prosecution of drug-impaired drivers is a three-pronged approach:

- 1.) The **Officer** documents driving impairment
- 2.) The **DRE** will further document specific controlled substance use and impairment
- 3.) The **BCA Lab** will verify the presence of controlled substances

There are over 30,000 DWI arrests in Minnesota each year. A significant number of those are due to drug impairment or are drug and alcohol related.

There are currently over 125 DRE trained officers throughout Minnesota.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Agencies participating in the DRE program must commit to:

- Strong desire toward traffic law enforcement
- Willingness to assist agencies/officers with DWI arrest and prosecution

The DRE candidate must be:

- A licensed police officer
- Trained in standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST)
- Active in DWI enforcement

DRE Training consists of:

- Nine days of classroom training
- Hands-on certification training (approximately 16 days)
- Eight hours of annual classroom training
- Two evaluations with a certified instructor annually

For further information, contact:

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