

A drug recognition expert (DRE) is a police officer trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) coordinates the International Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program with support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Currently, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three branches of the military, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and several countries around the world participate in this program.



If you are a certified police officer with a passion for detecting and stopping impaired drivers, you may have what it takes to become a DRE. To get started it takes two things: a commitment to complete the training and the support of your administration. It is important to note that this is NOT a drug education training program. This is a highly specialized drug-impaired driving detection program.



If you are interested in becoming a DRE candidate, please have the appropriate supervisor in your agency contact the State DRE Coordinator via:
www.iptm.org

If you are not a DRE or if you are not interested in becoming a DRE, please remember to call on these highly trained professionals when you encounter a subject who exhibits an impairment level that does not correlate with his/her BAC level.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program



Funding for Florida's Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is provided by the Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office.



DRE Certification is a 3-phase process:

The first phase is the DRE Pre-School. Candidates are selected to attend a 2-day intensive course designed to evaluate their ability to become a highly trained professional in drug-impaired driving detection. Successful candidates will graduate to the 7-day DRE School.

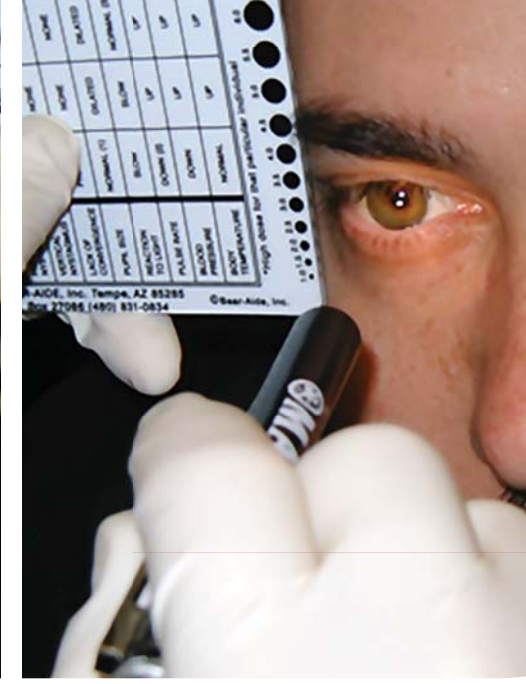
The second phase is the 7-day DRE School. It consists of seven eight-hour days of classroom training. Topics covered are:

- Standardized Field Sobriety Tests
- The twelve step DRE evaluation process
- Seven categories of drugs and the observable effects indicative of those categories
- Examination of vital signs and eyes
- Physiology of drugs (how the human body is effected by drugs)
- Classifying a suspect
- Report writing
- Case preparation and testimony
- Alcohol as a drug
- Defining drug as a DRE
- Drug combinations
- Curriculum vitae preparations

During the classroom portion, there are multiple quizzes and tests. The final exam consists of 100 questions. Officers must score at least 80% to continue in or graduate from the program.

The third phase is the field evaluation process. Each candidate must evaluate 12 subjects who are under the influence of something other than alcohol. They also must identify at least three of the seven drug categories. Each opinion rendered must be confirmed through toxicology.

Once certified, DREs must maintain a stringent, ongoing training regimen. In addition to keeping a rolling log, conducting at least four evaluations in two calendar years, and maintaining a current curriculum vitae, they must also attend a minimum of 8 hours of recertification training within 2 years of their most recent certification. After two years, certified members may achieve instructor status through the successful completion of an approved Drug Evaluation and Classification Instructor Training Program.



To be considered as a candidate for DRE training, an officer must demonstrate successful use of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) in the field including demonstration of proficiency in the use of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus. The officer must also be recommended by a prosecutor and must be nominated by a supervisor.



Qualifications for applying to DRE School:

1. Three years law enforcement experience (off probation)
2. Successful completion of a Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) course
3. Successful completion of classroom training of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
4. Submission of a written recommendation from a local prosecutor.

DRE School applications are available at: www.iptm.org