



UW-Madison Police Department

Policy: 41.5

SUBJECT: DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/01/10

REVISED DATE: 12/31/11; 10/20/21

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POLICY:

The UW—Madison Police Department Drug Recognition Expert shall be utilized to assist the University and other agencies, both in and around Dane County, in the detection and removal of impaired drivers from the roads and highways. The DRE shall conduct detailed physical diagnostic evaluations of persons who have been arrested for impaired driving or similar offenses.

DEFINITIONS:

The “Drug Recognition Expert” (DRE) is a law enforcement officer who has successfully completed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved curriculum for the Drug Evaluation and Classification Process and is certified by NHTSA and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

The “DRE Evaluation” is a systematic and standardized method of examining a subject to determine whether the person is under the influence of one or more categories of drugs.

PROCEDURE:

41.5.1 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) PROGRAM

- A. The DRE is responsible for conducting evaluations in a professional manner of suspected drug-impaired drivers. The DRE may also be utilized to conduct evaluations in other investigations where being under the influence of drugs is an element of the offense. The DRE should ensure that other police departments in and around Dane County are informed of and properly trained on the DRE program benefits and limitations.
- B. The DRE shall report directly to their first-line supervisor. The DRE program coordinator shall be the Day Shift Lieutenant.
- C. The DRE shall maintain certification and proficiency as required by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).
- D. Supplies needed by the DRE are provided by the Department. The cost of conducting DRE evaluations within Dane County shall be absorbed by the Department. The cost of performing evaluations conducted outside of Dane County shall be charged on a case-by-case basis.

41.5.2 PERSONNEL SELECTION

- A. The Department DRE program is staffed by a sworn officer who works in concert with other DREs across the state of Wisconsin.
- B. When a vacancy exists, the Captain of Field Services shall reevaluate the program and determine whether continuation is appropriate. If the decision has been made to continue the Department DRE program, a vacancy for the position shall be distributed electronically to all eligible officers. Officers who are interested in being selected for the position should forward a letter to the Captain of Field Services, through the officer’s chain of command. The letter should detail the officer’s experience, qualifications and interest in the position. The Captain of Field Services should review the qualifications of officers who have forwarded a letter of interest and, in consultation with members of the management team, assign an officer as replacement.

41.5.3 OPERATION OF THE DRE PROGRAM

- A. When called upon, the DRE shall conduct evaluations of suspected drug-impaired drivers. Based upon the information obtained, the DRE shall form an expert opinion as to whether the person is impaired, whether the impairment is due to drugs, and which category or combination of categories of drugs is the most likely source of the impairment. The evaluations conducted shall be systematic and standardized. The evaluations shall take place in a controlled environment. Examinations shall not take place roadside, because the measurements and observations that need to be made cannot accurately be performed under roadside conditions.
- B. The DRE shall be available for deployment when on regular duty time and during overtime assignments. The DRE shall be available for call-in, but is not on-call, on an overtime basis under most circumstances. Police supervisor or OIC approval is required for all DRE response requests resulting in a call-in from off duty time or originating from an agency outside Dane County.