



**CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**



Drug Recognition Expert

Eff. Date 11/02/2017

Purpose

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program will assist in identifying persons who are operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a drug other than, or in addition to, alcohol or who may be experiencing a medical impairment. Officers trained in these skills will also be a valuable resource for other criminal investigations where the presence of drugs may be an important issue, such as with child neglect, weapons offenses, sexual assault investigations, and other investigations as deemed relevant.

Definitions

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT

An officer who has been certified by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to provide a standardized evaluation of a subject who is suspected to be under the influence of a drug(s) other than, or in addition to, alcohol.

DRUG INFLUENCE EVALUATIONS

An evaluation performed by a DRE that includes reviewing the investigating officer's observations of the suspect, a cursory examination of the suspect, and, when appropriate, the standardized 12-step evaluation process.

Procedure

The DRE's Drug Influence Evaluation is primarily intended for subjects with an alcohol concentration under 0.10.

An officer may contact a supervisor or the Officer-In-Charge (OIC) to determine if a DRE should be brought in under the following circumstances:

1. When an officer has made an arrest for an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)-related offense and the alcohol content is not consistent with the level of observed impairment.
2. When an officer is investigating a drug-related offense where evidence of impairment would be beneficial to the investigation.
3. In the event of a crash involving fatalities and/or serious injuries, where there is a suggestion of illicit or prescription drug use.

The OIC will be responsible to review requests for a DRE to be called in to duty.

Recordkeeping Procedures

Each DRE is responsible for maintaining appropriate records related to DRE activities and submitting them to either the Regional or State coordinator as required.

Original SOP: 02/25/2015
(Reviewed Only: 02/17/2016, 12/20/2016, 01/31/2020, 11/29/2023, 01/31/2026)
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