

New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program



*New Mexico
Drug Evaluation and Classification Program
Drug Recognition Expert Training*

NEWS RELEASE

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Prepared By: New Mexico D.R.E. Program

18 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS GRADUATE DRUGGED DRIVING RECOGNITION TRAINING PROGRAM

Los Lunas, N.M. - STATEWIDE— As of May 22nd, 2021; 14 law enforcement agencies and 3 New Mexico State Police districts across the State of New Mexico gained an invaluable resource trained to identify drivers impaired by drugs. In conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Transportation; the New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program (NMDRE) is graduating 18 new Drug Recognition Experts (D.R.E.) from a rigorous three-week training program. The 2021 Drug Recognition Expert School included officers from 14 Police Departments, Sheriff Offices, and State Police throughout the state. The officers graduating from the program are:

- Officer Armando Duran, Sunland Park Police Department
- Officer Fernando Cruz, Santa Fe Police Department
- Officer Jeffrey Macrea, Clovis Police Department
- Deputy Aaron Gear, Eddy County Sheriffs' Office
- Officer Anthony Jaramillo, Bernalillo Police Department
- Officer Jerome Broyles, Espanola Police Department
- Officer Kevin Campos, New Mexico State Police- Santa Rosa
- Officer Matthew Saenz, New Mexico State Police- Roswell
- Officer Christopher Quintana, New Mexico State Police- Espanola
- Officer Zakariah Dale, Hobbs Police Department
- Officer Antoine Smith, Rio Rancho Police Department
- Corporal Bryan Cabriaes, Carlsbad Police Department
- Officer Zachary Herbst, Albuquerque Police Department
- Officer Ruben Gastelum, Hobbs Police Department
- Officer Michael Wells, Bloomfield Police Department
- Officer Stephen Laramore, Silver City Police Department
- Officer Oscar Welburn, Silver City Police Department
- Officer Michael Best, Roswell Police Department

The Law Enforcement Officers selected to attend this class were hand-picked by a panel of current Drug Recognition Experts and Drug Recognition Expert Instructors from around the State and were selected based on their qualifications and geographic locations within New Mexico. Throughout the training, the Officers were constantly tested and evaluated, ensuring they met established standards for certification as 'Drug Recognition Experts'. By successfully completing this course, these 18 Officers are now certified to determine a specific drug category (or categories) a suspected drug-impaired driver is under the influence of.



“This program gives New Mexico Law Enforcement the necessary tools to identify and remove drugimpaired drivers from our roadways and hold them accountable,” said Charles Files, State Coordinator for the D.R.E. Program in New Mexico. *“with drug impairment offering a new level of complexity in impaired driving cases, D.R.E.s are a critical component in our goal to ENDWI.”*

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is used internationally and in all 50 States. New Mexico has participated in the D.R.E. program since 1992. The program trains peace officers to detect and articulate the signs, symptoms, and indicia of drugs other than, or in addition to alcohol in subjects arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI).

There are currently 76 D.R.E.s in New Mexico from 26 agencies and seven State Police Districts. To become a New Mexico D.R.E. candidate, a New Mexico peace officer must have support from the agency’s Chief or Sheriff to attend the entire training and must meet several prerequisites.

Questions regarding this release can be directed to:

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