

Drug Recognition Expert Program (DRE)

343.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the Redding Police Department's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program. The DRE program will be the responsibility of the Field Operations Commander.

343.1.1 DEFINITIONS

A drug recognition expert or drug recognition evaluator (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) of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

343.2 DRE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The DRE program will consist of a Program Manager (Lieutenant), Supervisor (Sergeant or Corporal), and DRE trained officers. The DRE Supervisor will also serve as the Department's DRE coordinator. Officers on the DRE team are expected to maintain their certification if they wish to stay active in the program.

343.3 PROCEDURES

In driving cases, the initial detaining officer should make the decision to arrest the driver based on all relevant factors including, but not limited to: driving pattern, objective signs of intoxication, statements made by the driver or other witnesses, physical evidence located, and performance on the field sobriety tests. If the initial detaining officer suspects drug use or the driver's blood alcohol level is inconsistent with the demonstrated impairment, that officer may request the assistance of a DRE.

A DRE trained officer may be called out at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor in the case of a major injury or fatal traffic collision, where drug or alcohol use is suspected among one of the involved parties, or any other circumstance deemed appropriate by the on-duty supervisor.

343.4 REPORTING

All DRE evaluations shall be documented using the CHP-202DRE form. This form shall only be used by members of the DRE team. The DRE report shall be submitted as a supplement to the original crime report and the evaluation logged into the DRE tracking system as required. Generally, the DRE Supervisor will review DRE supplemental reports.