

New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program



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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 10th, 2022

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

16 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS GRADUATE DRUGGED DRIVING RECOGNITION TRAINING PROGRAM

Los Lunas, N.M. - STATEWIDE— As of May 7th, 2022; 10 law enforcement agencies and 3 New Mexico State Police districts across the State of New Mexico gained an invaluable resource trained to identify and assist in the investigations of drivers arrested for driving while impaired by drugs. In conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Transportation; the New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program (NMDRE) is graduating 16 new Drug Recognition Experts (D.R.E.) from a rigorous three-week training program. The 2022 Drug Recognition Expert School included officers from 11 Police Departments, Sheriff Offices, and State Police throughout the state. The officers graduating from the program are:

- Deputy Valente Marquez, Bernalillo County Sheriffs Office
- Corporal Zachariah Owens, Lea County Sheriffs Office
- Sergeant Brandi Kie, Sandoval County Sheriffs Office
- Officer Zachary Zavala, Truth or Consequences Police Department
- Officer Keith Miller, Isleta Police Department
- Officer Adam Golson, Albuquerque Police Department
- Officer Harvey Johnson, Albuquerque Police Department
- Officer Linda Smith, Albuquerque Police Department
- Officer Justin Maese, New Mexico State Police- Alamogordo
- Officer Zachary Thill, New Mexico State Police- Clovis
- Officer Rachel Hall, New Mexico State Police- Gallup
- Officer Chyenne Bunker, Alamogordo Police Department
- Deputy Marcus Ward, Santa Fe County Sheriffs Office
- Officer Manuelito Benallie, Farmington Police Department
- Officer Eduardo Arreola, Farmington Police Department
- Sergeant Jaclyn Martinez, Rio Rancho Police Department

May 20th, 2022

The Law Enforcement Officers selected to attend this class were hand-picked by a panel of current Drug Recognition Experts, Drug Recognition Expert Instructors, and traffic safety stakeholders from around the State and were selected based on their qualifications and geographic locations within New Mexico. Throughout the course of 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 16 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 drug impaired drivers from our roadways and hold them accountable,” said Charles Files, State Coordinator for the D.R.E. Program in New Mexico. “With drug impaired driving cases on the rise, 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 alcohol in subjects arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI).

There are currently 92 D.R.E.s in New Mexico from 31 agencies and eleven 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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