

NDOT - HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

Nebraska Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Drug Recognition Expert Course 2019 Training Application

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP) is a transportation safety initiative focusing on the detection and apprehension of drug-impaired drivers. The program is managed and coordinated by the *International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)* with support from the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)* of the *U.S. Department of Transportation*.

The DECP has received international acclaim for its success in helping officers identify the drug impaired driver. Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) are frequently called upon to differentiate between drug influence and medical and/or mental disorders. The certified DRE is an extremely valuable tool for combating the adverse impact of drug and alcohol impaired driving.

DRE training is extremely demanding. Students must successfully complete three separate phases of training. The following summarizes each phase:

Phase I (Pre School): Consists of 16 hours of basic knowledge, the prospective candidate will need to successfully complete the Pre-School to move to the next phase. Training consists of skills learned in taking accurate vital signs, pulse, blood pressure and body temperature. Students are also given hands-on practice in pupillary estimation, pupillary response, examination of muscle tone and an overview of the seven major drug categories used in the DECP.

Phase II (DRE School): Conducted after the Pre-School. This is a seven day (56 hour) course dealing with the physiology, toxicology, overall drug evaluation and familiarization with the signs and symptoms of the seven drug categories. This portion includes three written examinations; five quizzes; and a demonstration of proficiency in SFST and the entire drug evaluation process. Students must successful complete all portions to proceed to Phase III.

Phase III (Field Certification): The responsibility of successfully completing the field certification phase lies with the student. Certification nights will be scheduled each Friday and Saturday night immediately following the conclusion of Phase II. The requirements of this phase include

evaluating at least 12 drug impaired individuals under the supervision of a DRE instructor, identifying individuals under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories and attaining a 80% toxicological confirmation rate.

In addition to the hands-on evaluations, a DRE candidate must maintain a progress log of individuals they have evaluated, an up-to-date rolling log and, submit a written curriculum vitae for approval. Finally, the DRE candidate must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination and obtain the written endorsement of two certified DRE instructors who have observed the DRE candidate during the training phases.

The DRE certification is valid for a period of two years. In order to maintain certification as a DRE, the officer must complete a minimum of four “for prosecution” evaluations, one under the direct supervision of a DRE instructor, submit an up-to-date rolling log and curriculum vitae, be current in the National Data Tracking System and attend a minimum of 8 hours of approved re-certification training.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Officers must have completed the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training, be proficient in administering the SFST battery, be active in DWI enforcement and be off probation with your agency.

COURSE GOALS: To enable the course participants to distinguish if an individual is under the influence of a drug(s) other than alcohol, or under the combined influence of alcohol and other drugs, and to identify the broad category or categories of drugs inducing the observable signs of impairment.

DATES AND TIMES: Pre-School (Phase I) – March 27 & 28, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. DRE School (Phase II) – April 9 – 11 & 15 – 18, 2019 – 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day with several evening study sessions. Attendance is mandatory for all sessions. Phases I and II will be held in Grand Island, Nebraska. Field Certification (Phase III) weekends are scheduled at three locations across the State on every Friday and Saturday evening beginning on April 19 & 20, 2019, until Phase III has been completed.

REGISTRATION FEES, MEALS AND LODGING: There is no registration fee for Nebraska officers. All course materials and equipment is provided. Participants are responsible for their own meals and transportation. Lodging is provided near the training site.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 25, 2019

