



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karlhlon F. Moore, Executive Director
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Interim Drug Recognition Expert Coordinator Named

(COLUMBUS) – Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) has announced an interim director to oversee the state's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program.

Effective November 1, 2011, Robert Painter, Regional Programs Manager and Law Enforcement Liaison of OCJS' Traffic Safety Section, will serve as DRE Interim Coordinator. Current DRE Coordinator Carl Booth resigned to better fulfill his obligations as a constable at Sharon Township Police Department. Booth, who was instrumental in setting up the DRE Program in Ohio, will assist with the transition.

The DRE program is a traffic-safety program that focuses on the detection, apprehension and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers. A DRE is a police officer who is highly trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs or a combination of drugs and alcohol. A DRE undergoes specialized training in detecting and identifying the category or categories of drugs causing the impairment. The process is based on observable signs and symptoms that are known to be reliable indicators of drug impairment. Currently, Ohio has 32 certified DREs, with the conclusion of Ohio's recent graduation of 20 police officers from across state.

The DRE program, also referred to as the Drug Evaluation Classification program, began in the 1970s with the Los Angeles Police Department. The program operates under the guidelines and direction of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and is supported by NHTSA. There are more than 7,300 DREs across the nation.

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A division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio through research, technology and grants. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.