



Moorhead Police Department

NEWS RELEASE

PATROL DIVISION

From: Lt. Joel Scharf #106
Date: May 25th 2009
Subject: Moorhead Police Institute Drug Recognition Expert Program

Recognizing the importance of removing substance impaired drivers from the roadways of our community, The Moorhead Police Department has created a Drug Recognition Expert Program.

Officers Joshua Schroeder and Seth Saarinen attended and recently completed this program and are now recognized as “Drug Recognition Experts.” The DRE Program is an intensive program that consists of 9 days of classroom training followed by the practical application of recognition skills on those actually impaired by substances. Officers Schroeder and Saarinen completed the classroom portion of training in White Bear Lake MN, followed by the clinical practical portion in Phoenix AZ.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 65% of all drivers arrested for DWI have substances other than alcohol impairing their ability to drive at the time of their arrest. There are approximately 6000 DRE in the United States; Minnesota has 162 DRE’s working at 80 different departments.

Funding for the training of Officers Schroeder and Saarinen came directly from the proceeds of Moorhead Police Department DWI Forfeiture Funds. DWI Forfeiture Funds are derived from the sale of vehicles administratively seized from repeat/chronic DWI Offenders per Minnesota State Law.