

Course Introduction

Many law enforcement officers are trained in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and use the skills gained in the course as part of their overall enforcement of driving while impaired (DWI) laws. Additionally, some officers complete more advanced training through the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) program and become Drug Recognition Experts (DRE). This course is not designed as a substitute to the DEC program and will not qualify or certify an individual as a DRE. This course is intended to bridge the gap between the SFST and DRE courses and to provide a level of awareness to the participants, both law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals, in the area of drug impairment in the context of traffic safety. Based on that premise, the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course was developed with the following goals in mind:

This course will train law enforcement officers to observe, identify and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or combination of both, in order to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents as well as crashes which result in serious injuries and fatalities.

This course will educate other criminal justice professionals (prosecutors, toxicologists, judges, etc.) to understand the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or combination of both, to enable them to effectively work with law enforcement in order to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents as well as crashes which result in serious injuries and fatalities.

In order to deal with impaired drivers on our roadways, it is important for the law enforcement community and other criminal justice professionals to be aware of the signs and symptoms of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or combination of drugs and alcohol as well as their effects on driving. In addition to identifying the impaired driver, law enforcement agencies need to have the proper information to utilize their available resources including DREs and appropriate screening methods (blood, urine, or saliva).

Criminal justice professionals such as prosecutors and toxicologists must also understand the impaired driving detection process in order to support enforcement efforts, which will increase the probability of successful prosecution and adjudication. The traffic safety community is well aware that it is essential to address both enforcement and adjudication in order to effectively impact DWI incidents as well as associated crashes.

In order to meet these goals, this course will train participants to:

1. Define and describe the relationship of drugs to impaired driving incidents.
2. Demonstrate, articulate, and properly administer the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests proficiently.