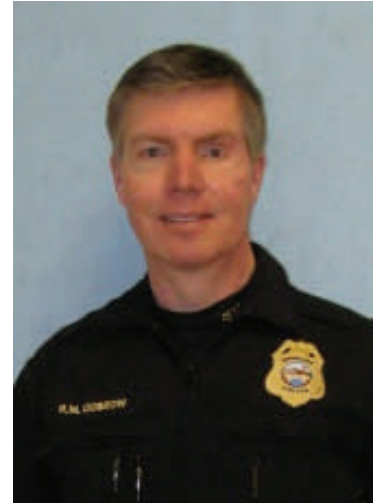


SERGEANT RICK DOBROW



The Purple Heart is awarded to employees injured in the performance of their duties to such a degree that they require hospitalization or immediate care from a physician. The injury must be of a serious nature capable of causing death or extended disability.



On September 26, 2006 at approximately 5pm, Sergeant Rick Dobrow was critically injured in a traffic collision. While waiting for a red light at Monroe and Francis, Sgt. Dobrow observed a reckless driver speeding in the opposite direction. He activated his emergency lights, crossed a median and began to pursue the suspect south on Monroe. A van crossed in front of him as he approached Dalke. With no room to perform an evasive maneuver, Sgt. Dobrow's only choice was to drop as much speed as possible before impact.

The reconstruction team measured nearly 20 feet of front wheel skid from Sgt. Dobrow's motorcycle. This is a remarkable feat, as most experienced riders will lose control after just two to three feet of front wheel lock up. Sgt. Dobrow's skills likely saved his life.

Sgt. Dobrow suffered extensive injuries. The first night was tense as his blood pressure could not be stabilized, due in large part to a torn carotid artery. Sgt. Dobrow also suffered a broken orbital socket, open fractures of his jaw, one broken cheek bone, a shattered cheek bone and a broken nose; but, it didn't stop with his face. Sgt. Dobrow also suffered a broken shoulder blade, broken sternum, two broken ribs, three fractured vertebrae and a punctured lung. Sgt. Dobrow returned to work in a light duty capacity on January 24, 2008. With the help of physical therapy, Sgt. Dobrow is currently back on full duty with the Traffic Unit.

