

SCRAM_x in Sheriffs' Programs



Spartanburg County · South Carolina

The Spartanburg County Detention Facility uses SCRAM® (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) in its alcohol offender management program to promote 24/7 accountability, protect the community, save taxpayer dollars, and ease jail overcrowding.

Underscoring the latter is that while the facility strives to “provide a humane, safe, secure, and sanitary detention and incarceration for both pre-trial and sentenced offenders (90 days or less),” the reality is that the jail is severely overcrowded on a fairly consistent basis. The jail’s daily capacity is 586 but – for the past couple of years – that number typically hovered around 850 inmates, reaching as high as 900 inmates on occasion. Admissions average 55 new detainees per day, but can reach up to 100 per day.

Key Program Points/Results:

- Pre-trial and post-conviction
- Typically repeat DWI offenders
- Helps ease severely crowded jail conditions
- Fully offender-paid program
- 3 out of 4 offenders fully compliant
- Taxpayer savings of over \$1 million annually

Spartanburg County SCRAM Program Stats*:

Total Monitored: 456

Average Monitoring Period: 103 days

% Compliant (no violations): 77%

*As of December 2010

Tackling Jail Overcrowding

To address this severe overcrowding problem, Spartanburg County’s Home Detention Program employs a combination of continuous alcohol monitoring (SCRAM), house arrest, and GPS for those non-violent alcohol offenders who can be safely be released under electronic supervision as ordered by the court. Individuals charged with an alcohol-related crime may also be placed in the program as a condition of bond while awaiting trial.

24/7 Monitoring Criteria

Spartanburg County first began using SCRAM in 2006, and usage has tripled since then to an average of approximately 60 alcohol offenders each day. Typical clients are those with multiple (2 or more) DUIs. SCRAM program eligibility is based on approval by the courts, as well as the offender meeting basic criteria such as employment, a permanent residence within Spartanburg County, a home phone, and the ability to pay his or her own monitoring fees.

Because the Detention Facility’s officers and staff monitor and manage the Home Detention Program internally in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies and the courts, program enforcement is swift and certain. If the offender drinks or tampers while on SCRAM, he or she is picked up by a Home Detention Officer from the jail and/or a deputy working with the jail and immediately returned to custody to complete their sentence. If the offender is out on bond and violates, he or she will be taken back into custody. A hearing will then be scheduled to determine whether the judge wishes to allow the offender to be released back on bond with any new conditions and/or held in custody pending trial.

Making a Difference

Home Detention Program supervisor Nancy Vinson works directly with the Sheriffs’ Office and other criminal justice agencies and the courts to drive SCRAM program compliance. She also notes that many of the SCRAM graduates who have successfully completed their monitoring periods with no drinking events have achieved positive and insightful results. “When someone is on SCRAM and knows they can’t drink for 90 or 180 days, it finally sinks in that maybe they don’t need that drink to get through their day,” she explains.

By maintaining extended sobriety, offenders who were otherwise costing the County money are now contributing positively to the community and saving taxpayer dollars. With statewide incarceration costs currently at approximately \$52 per day – the County’s self-sustaining and fully offender-paid program saves approximately \$1.1 million annually!

**Continuous Alcohol Monitoring
+ House Arrest**

SCRAM_x Helps Sheriffs Take a Tough Stand on Alcohol

As a Sheriff, you likely deal with alcohol offenders on a daily basis. In fact, since alcohol is a contributing factor in over 60% of all crimes, its reach extends far beyond DUI and can impact a significant part of your arrests.

To help address this, SCRAM_x[®] (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) provides Sheriffs with an effective way to take a firm stand on alcohol-related crime. SCRAM_x combines continuous alcohol monitoring (CAM) and house arrest technology in one device, letting you monitor hardcore/repeat offenders 24/7 for alcohol with the ability to add house arrest, as needed.

SCRAM_x provides Sheriffs with a comprehensive alcohol offender management solution that:

- Drives greater accountability
 - 9 out of 10 offenders are fully compliant while on the device
- Helps keep roadways safe
- Protects community safety
- Consolidates two technologies into one
 - Streamlines inventory management and saves time
- Gives departments the security of a proven, court-validated technology with the CAM industry leader
 - More than 165,000 offenders monitored since 2003
 - Court validated in:
 - 82 evidentiary hearings
 - 32 hearings resulting in Daubert/Frye rulings
 - 1 State Supreme Court and 1 State Appellate Court rulings
- Provides additional supervision for higher-risk or re-entry offenders
- Saves money and resources
- Helps reduce recidivism



SCRAM_x helps Sheriffs tackle what you likely find to be the most challenging aspects of dealing with alcohol offenders, and is an extension of your efforts in the field.

