

2019 Forensic Services

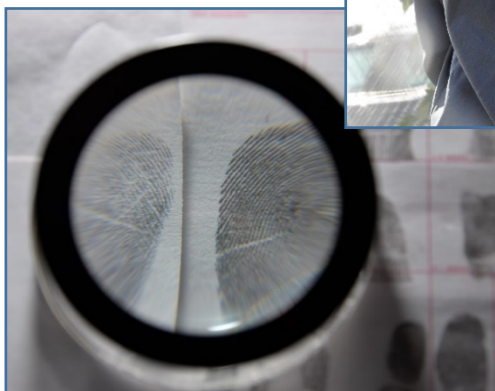
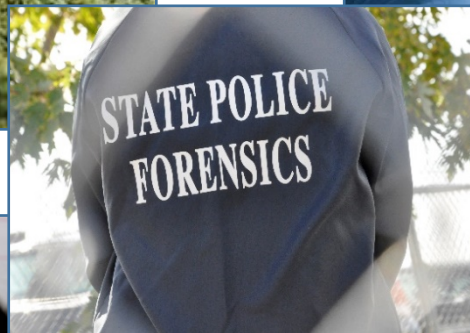
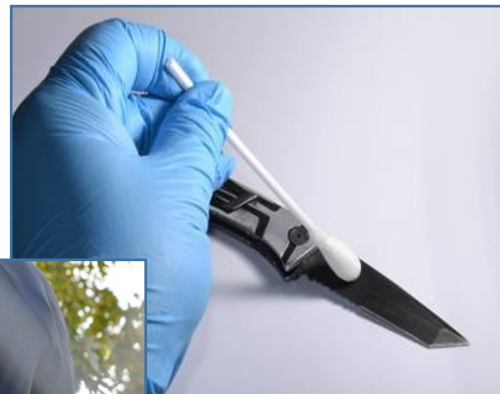


Impact Report



Idaho State Police

This publication is intended to convey the importance and impact of the Idaho State Police Forensic Services Laboratories on the criminal justice system in Idaho. All the cases highlighted in this newsletter are cases where ISPFs played a critical role by performing forensic analysis used in the criminal proceedings. Some analysis performed helped to convict individuals. Other forensic findings helped lead to exonerations. While the cases highlighted here were all published in major news media outlets, the majority of the cases worked on a daily basis are not published or publicized. In 2019 alone, the labs worked over 12,000 cases in support of local and state criminal justice agencies. Timely forensic science analysis is vital to the success of the Idaho judicial system. Support from Idaho policymakers has been essential in the successes of the state laboratory system. The lab system employees will continue to work for Idaho citizens and other criminal justice stakeholders. Many new and ongoing forensic science initiatives will keep our Idaho lab system leading the country with innovative ideas. We expect 2020 to be a very dynamic year!





Ada County



2019 Annual Report



Adam Paulson

Probation for man who hit, killed woman on Eagle Road

Blood alcohol analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services

Adam Paulson, of Eagle, was given a 15-year suspended prison sentence after being convicted of vehicular manslaughter.

Paulson was found guilty of felony vehicular manslaughter after he hit and killed 24-year-old Madeline Duskey while driving under the influence of alcohol. Paulson had a blood alcohol content level of .21, more than two times the legal limit in Idaho.

Judge Deborah Bail sentence Paulson to probation, and he will pay child support for Duskey's children until they become adults. He will also perform 500 hours of community service, wear an alcohol monitor, and not be allowed to purchase, possess, or consume alcohol.



Elias Lupango, Rashidi Mulanga, and Swedi Iyombelo.

Kuna rape suspects plead guilty, get probation

DNA analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services

Three men accused of gang-raping an 18-year-old woman in Kuna were sentenced to probation after a prosecutor said procedural missteps hampered his ability to take the case to trial. Elias Lupango, 19, Rashidi Mulanga, 18, and Swedi Iyombelo, 18, each pled guilty to misdemeanor charges of battery and false imprisonment.

The victim and Iyombelo exchanged messages on Snapchat and then agreed to meet up in person. The victim drove to Kuna to meet Iyombelo, and they began having consensual sex in her vehicle. During the encounter, she asked him to stop, but he did not. The other defendants then took turns having sex with her.



Brian Cade Humphreys

Meridian man sentenced to 14 years for meth

Controlled substance analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services

Prosecutors say Brian Cade Humphreys, 46, of Meridian, sold meth to a confidential informant on four separate occasions. Humphreys has a long criminal history that includes a prior crime of violence and a drug trafficking offense.

The court determined Humphreys to be a career offender under federal sentencing guidelines, resulting in a longer prison sentence. Once released, Humphreys will be required to spend another ten years on supervised release.



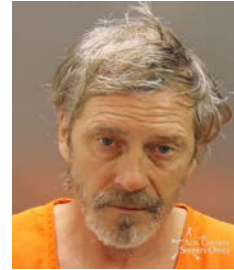
Anna Mihelich and Odalys Martinez

Boise woman charged with aggravated DUI after crash kills child

Toxicology and Breath Alcohol analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Anna Mihelich, 53, of Boise, was arrested and charged with four counts of felony aggravated DUI three months after she was involved in a crash that killed a 3-year-old girl. The crash happened July 2, 2019 on Orchard Street when the SUV Mihelich was driving collided with a van. All four occupants of the

van, including three children, were rushed to the hospital. Six days later, 3-year-old Odalys Martinez died from her injuries.



Lee R. Miller

Suspect in 25-year-old unsolved Boise homicide pleads guilty in Washington state killing

Biology and DNA analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services

An Idaho man was arrested and pled guilty to a charge of first-degree murder in connection with a homicide in Washington from 1992, based on DNA evidence connected to an unsolved Boise slaying in 1994.

According to a joint release from the Boise and Bremerton, Washington, police departments, Lee R. Miller, 54, was charged in the death of 57-year-old Marilyn Hickey, of Bremerton, Washington.

Hickey was last seen alive leaving a bar with a man fitting Miller's description. Hickey was found strangled in her home and Miller was believed to have lived in the area at the time of the killing.

With little evidence at the scene and no arrests made, the case went cold after a couple of months. The case was reopened in 2006, when DNA found at the scene of the killing of 49-year-old Cheryle Barratt in Boise matched DNA from the Hickey slaying. Barratt was found stabbed to death in her North End home.

Miller's DNA, collected from a cigarette butt, was submitted to the Idaho State Crime Lab and was found to match the DNA at both crime scenes. Miller pled guilty to murdering Hickey and is expected to plead guilty in Barratt's case.



Bannock County



2019 Annual Report



Ryan Fitzgerald Dalley

Man sentenced to 17 years in prison for running East Idaho drug trafficking organization

Quant analysis and latent fingerprint processing was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Ryan Fitzgerald Dalley, 44, of Soda Springs, has been sentenced to 17 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to charges of continuing a criminal enterprise and conspiracy to launder money.

Dalley admitted that from September 2013 to October 2017, he acted as an organizer, supervisor or manager over at least five other individuals who conspired to distribute methamphetamine in Idaho and other states. He also admitted that he received substantial income from the sales of methamphetamine and laundered \$100,000 in drug proceeds.

Idaho State Police Detectives initially began investigating Dalley for suspected drug trafficking back in August 2013 while conducting surveillance of a suspected drug house in Pocatello.



Rocco J. Chacon

Man shot at by state police during pursuit in 2017 found guilty on three charges

Control substance analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Rocco J. Chacon was charged in relation to the March 2017 incident that involved a vehicle pursuit in Pocatello. The incident involved several Idaho State Police troopers firing upon the car Chacon was allegedly driving, seriously wounding his passenger, Shaylee M. Williamson. The pursuit ended when the vehicle reached a dead-end on a dirt road when Chacon finally stopped his car and was arrested.

A state trooper was not seriously injured when struck by Chacon's vehicle. Chacon was not wounded by the police gunfire but Williamson suffered multiple gunshot wounds and nearly died.

Chacon was acquitted of the charge of aggravated battery with the intent to murder police officers and another serious felony following his trial at the Bannock County Courthouse. Chacon was found guilty of three crimes; unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of methamphetamine, and eluding police.

Chacon is facing up to 17 years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines.



Bingham County



2019 Annual Report



Denise Williams

Idaho woman sentenced to 14 years in prison for helping boyfriend in armed robberies

Alcohol, Toxicology, and Controlled Substance analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Denise Williams, 26, of Blackfoot, has been sentenced to 14 years in prison for assisting her boyfriend in a series of armed robberies.

Prosecutors stated Williams and her boyfriend, Juan Santos-Quintero, robbed two high school students outside a fast food restaurant and another man outside of a church. Guns were used in both crimes to threaten the victims.



Bonneville County



2019 Annual Report



Jorge Palmerin-Rodriguez

North Dakota man sentenced for drug trafficking

Controlled substance analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Jorge Palmerin-Rodriguez, 50, was arrested after an Idaho State Police Trooper found more than three pounds of methamphetamine in his car.

Palmerin-Rodriguez was a passenger in a car driven by a woman in Bonneville County. The trooper observed the driver driving erratically. The trooper pulled them over and asked the driver for her license. The driver admitted she did not have a driver's license. Both adults consented to be searched. The trooper found marijuana on both adults. He then searched the vehicle, finding three vacuum-sealed bags of meth, a half-pound bag of cocaine, and small amounts of heroin, ecstasy, and other pills. A bag of cocaine was found attached to the steering column and a meth pipe was found in a duffel bag.

Palmerin-Rodriguez accepted a plea deal for two charges of drug trafficking of methamphetamine and cocaine. He was sentenced to five to seven years and ordered to pay substantial fees totaling \$16,868.61.



Sean Abegglen

Police investigate alleged East Idaho drug lab explosion

Control substance analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

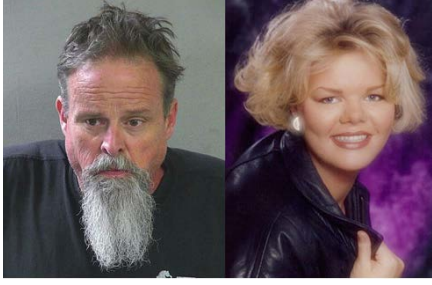
Sean Abegglen, 40, of Idaho Falls, was arrested following a drug lab explosion at a local residence north of Idaho Falls.

When sheriff's deputies and Idaho Falls Fire Department responded to the scene, they discovered broken windows, damage to the kitchen, and indications of chemicals and materials used in the manufacturing of illegal drugs. There were three adults inside the home at the time of the explosion but none were injured.

Bonneville County Sheriff's deputies not only found evidence of a drug lab, but located roughly 80 grams of marijuana, 4 grams of methamphetamine and 11 grams of butane hash oil.

Abegglen admitted to possessing the drugs found at the scene and also admitted that he was in the process of manufacturing butane hash oil when the explosion occurred.

Abegglen will be charged with two felony and two misdemeanor drug-related crimes.



Brian Dripps and Angie Dodge

Caldwell man charged with 1996 murder of Angie Dodge

Testimony and DNA analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Brian Dripps, of Caldwell, has been charged for a rape and murder that happened more than two decades ago. Investigators say he confessed to murdering Angie Dodge in Idaho Falls in 1996. Police tied Dripps to the case after groundbreaking DNA testing, molecular genealogy, led detectives to the Caldwell man in May 2019. Court documents show DNA found on a cigarette butt smoked by Dripps matched that of the DNA profile from semen left on Dodge's body.

Another man, Christopher Tapp, who was originally accused and convicted of the murder has since been exonerated and released after spending 22 years in jail. Molecular genealogy was used to map out a family tree to find the real perpetrator.



Jordan Corona-Guerrero

Idaho Falls man allegedly rapes woman after she tells him no

Biology and DNA analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Jordan Corona-Guerrero, 22, of Idaho Falls, is charged with one count of felony rape for raping a

woman in her home after she repeatedly told him no. Corona-Guerrero was previously known the victim. While at her home, Corona-Guerrero told the victim he wanted to have sex with her and the victim refused. Corona-Guerrero ignored the victim's refusal and raped her as she cried and continued to tell him no. She was eventually able to push Corona-Guerrero off of her.

Investigators state Corona-Guerrero admitted to using a lot of methamphetamine at the time of the rape. He also admitted that the victim did, in fact, tell him no multiple times. If convicted of the felony rape, Corona-Guerrero faces life in prison.



Joshua Michael Russell

Idaho Falls man arrested for allegedly threatening to shoot man

Controlled substance analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Joshua Michael Russell, 36, of Idaho Falls, was arrested after he reportedly threatened a man with a gun.

According to court documents, Russell visited the victim and his girlfriend earlier in the day, only to return later and started pounding on the victim's door. The victim's girlfriend hid in the bathroom with a cellphone that was unable to make calls, so she contacted her mother via Facebook messenger to alert her of what was happening. The victim then let Russell into the home where Russell threatened to shoot the victim, pointing a semi-automatic handgun at his head.



Canyon County



2019 Annual Report



William Paul Taylor

Nampa man convicted of killing parents, dumping bodies in shed

Biology and DNA analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

William Paul Taylor, 50, of Nampa, was convicted of murdering his elderly parents, whose bodies were discovered wrapped in a tarp in a shed behind their home. The victims, 76-year-old Paul Taylor and 77-year-old Mary Jane Taylor, had suffered massive injuries before their deaths according to police. Paul Taylor had been beaten and strangled, while Mary Jane Taylor had been beaten, stabbed multiple times, and had her throat slashed.

After the murders, Taylor fled the state in his father's pickup truck. He was arrested by police at a Terrebonne, Oregon rest stop the day the bodies were discovered by a family member. Once interviewed, Taylor denied killing his parents but stated he panicked after finding them dead inside the home, taking steps to cover up the deaths. Nampa Police detectives found blood and drag marks inside the home, as well as bloody bedding, tarps, and clothing that belonged to Taylor in the garbage. The defendant was also caught on surveillance cameras buying tape, cleaning supplies, trash bags and a padlock at stores in Nampa.

Taylor was found guilty of multiple felonies, including first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and failure to notify authorities of a death. He is facing up to life in prison.



Hector Flores Arias

Wilder man sentenced to 17 years in prison for lewd conduct with a minor

Blood alcohol, Toxicology, Biology, and DNA analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Hector Flores Arias, 35, of Wilder, was sentenced to 17 and a half years in prison for lewd conduct with a minor under 16. Arias was arrested after an investigation by Wilder Police found evidence that he was having a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old girl.

Investigators say they found text messages on a school-issued iPad that were 'sexual and graphic in nature' between Arias and the victim. Investigators say the teen admitted that she was having sex with and used methamphetamine with Arias.

Arias must serve a minimum of five years, with 12 and a half years indeterminate. He must also register as a sex offender, have his DNA entered in the Idaho DNA database, and have no contact with underage girls or the victim for the entirety of his sentence.



15 linked to Caldwell gang indicted on meth charges

Controlled substance and latent fingerprint analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Fifteen members of the West Side Loma gang have been arrested and indicted on methamphetamine charges. All 15 are charged with distribution of methamphetamine and one is also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of an unregistered gun. The indictments come after a year-long investigation by the Treasure Valley Metro Violent Crimes Task Force. The West Side Loma gang, which is a fragment of the Sureños gang, has a long criminal history of violence and drug trafficking. All 15 members are facing decades in prison.



Custer County



2019 Annual Report



Benjamin J. Savage and Charlie McBride

Man pleads guilty to the murder of missing Challis man

Crime Scene Processing, Fire Debris, Firearms, and Biology analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Benjamin J. Savage, accused of shooting, killing, burning and burying Charlie McBride, has pled guilty to first-degree murder. Police arrested Savage at the Idaho Falls Regional Airport after locating McBride's burned and buried body in the location Savage told police to look.

In the plea agreement Savage agreed to provide the gun used to kill McBride, give a full confession of the murder, and pass a "confirming" polygraph.

Savage is facing 17-20 years in prison.



Elmore County



2019 Annual Report



Donald Schultz

Man arrested, charged for 2018 murder in Elmore County

Crime Scene processing was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Donald Schultz, 70, of Mountain Home, has been charged with multiple crimes including second-degree murder, failure to report a death, grand theft, and racketeering.

Schultz was arrested after Elmore County Sheriff's Office Detectives received a tip from a citizen regarding a possible missing person.

Schultz's defense attorney stated in court this is a case of self-defense, claiming the victim charged at Schultz with a sledgehammer. During an interview with detectives, Schultz said he pulled a .380 caliber handgun from his waist and fired four shots, striking the victim in the torso. He then moved the body to a known location in Elmore County.



Franklin County



2019 Annual Report



Marlin McQueen

Franklin County homicide victim identified and suspect arrested

Crime scene processing was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

The body of a man found dead in his home has been identified as Wilden Everett Lovin Jr., 31, of Preston. The party that found the body notified the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Deputies responded and indicated that foul play was involved as the victim had been stabbed multiple times.

After the Sheriff's Office investigation and multiple interviews, Marlin McQueen, 35, of Preston, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. McQueen has confessed, telling detectives he stabbed Lovin Jr. multiple times with a hunting knife after a party. He then allegedly took the knife, hid it in a stuffed animal and locked it in a storage shed. Investigators later recovered the weapon as well as items of clothing belonging to McQueen that were stained with blood.

If convicted, McQueen could face the death penalty or up to life in prison.



Freemont County



2019 Annual Report



Jeneva Costilla



Man, woman arrested after deputies find 4 pounds of meth in vehicle

Toxicology and controlled substance analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Fremont County Sheriff's deputies discovered four pounds of methamphetamine during a routine traffic stop in Island Park. The deputy became suspicious after the driver of the vehicle allegedly gave a false name and the deputy could smell marijuana coming from the car.

Lyn Americanhorse, 24, admitted he had a suspended driver's license and the deputy learned he had an outstanding felony warrant in Montana. Americanhorse and his passenger, Jeneva Costilla, were then taken into custody. Deputies proceeded to search the vehicle and found approximately four pounds of crystal methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in the trunk.

Americanhorse and Costilla were arrested on charges of trafficking and possession of methamphetamine. Americanhorse was also charged with providing false information to an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving on a suspended license. Costilla was also charged with resisting/obstructing an officer and possession of drug paraphanelia.



Kootenai County



2019 Annual Report



Nathan K.W. Jones, Jordan Avery Erickson, and Nolan Mullen-Huber

Ringleader gets prison in robbery, assault case

Firearms and Controlled Substance analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Former high school track standout Nolan Mullen-Huber, the ringleader of a Coeur d'Alene gang who sold drugs and robbed, stripped and beat a 20-year-old man, was sentenced to five years in prison with an underlying 15 year sentence. Mullen-Huber also pled guilty to five other felonies, including drug dealing and robbery.

Mullen-Huber was the front man in the robbery at Potlatch Hill where he, Nathan K.W. Jones, and Jordan Avery Erickson, pistol-whipped Terrel Fruechti, breaking his nose. They punched Fruechti several times in the face, stole his clothes, money, keys, and left him bloody in only his underwear on a frigid February night. Fruechti stated he was scared for his life and had to climb up a tree to prevent frostbite on his feet.

Jones was sentenced to a fixed four years in prison with an underlying 15 years, and he will have a chance at probation after one year in prison. Erickson was sentenced to five to 15 years in prison.



Madison County



2019 Annual Report



Cynthia Powell

Seven time felon to spend up to 12 years in prison

Controlled Substance analysis was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Cynthia Powell of Rexburg, now a seven-time felon, faces up to 12 years in prison for felony drug possession of methamphetamine and felony forgery.

Madison County Prosecutor Sid Brown has asked the Seventh District Judge to run Powell's sentences consecutively to her sentence in Bonneville County as he believes she doesn't understand the gravity of the situation and hasn't take responsibility for her actions. "She's awaiting trial on multiple felony charges and is continuing to commit crimes" stated prosecutor Brown.



Teton County



2019 Annual Report



Chet K. Neilson

Man linked to violent rape through chewing tobacco

Biology and DNA analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Chet K. Neilson, 31, of St. Anthony has plead guilty to a violent rape in Teton County. Neilson raped a woman in the early hours of August 4, 2017, as she walked in the Victor City Park after attending Music on Main.

The victim did not know her attacker but described him to detectives as a Caucasian male in his mid-20s to mid-30s wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt, with a “buzz cut” and no facial hair. Evidence from the sexual assault exam kit was sent to the Idaho State Police Forensic Lab, and investigators obtained multiple samples of the suspect’s sperm on her body and a NuvaRing, a birth control device placed in a woman’s vagina.

Two years later, Teton County Sheriff Detective Sgt. Andrew Foster received a lead identifying Neilson as a possible suspect. Foster, along with Idaho State Police and the Fremont County Sheriff’s Office, began a surveillance operation to collect a DNA sample from Neilson. Investigators obtained used chewing tobacco spit from Neilson’s mouth and sent that sample to the ISP lab in Meridian for testing.

The sperm cell sample from the sexual assault kit matched the DNA sample obtained from Neilson. Deputies then arrested Neilson and took him to the Madison County Jail.

Rape in Idaho holds a minimum sentence of one year, but Neilson could spend up to life in prison and he will likely have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.



Lindsey Asselin

Woman killed dog, slit her own throat, and crashed during police pursuit

Alcohol and Toxicology analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Lindsey Asselin, 38, of Driggs, was seriously injured in a crash that occurred while she was being pursued by law enforcement.

The incident began when Teton County Sheriff Tony Liford observed Asselin’s pickup truck driving erratically. Suspecting the driver was under the influence, the sheriff attempted to make a traffic stop. Asselin refused to stop, instead she did a U-turn and fled at high speeds in a reckless manner. She eventually lost control of the vehicle, left the roadway, entered into a field and rolled.

While investigating the scene, law enforcement discovered Asselin had a self-inflicted laceration to her throat. Her dog, which had died from a knife wound to the throat, was also found in the vehicle.



Twin Falls County



2019 Annual Report



Kelsey Berreth

Krystal Lee

Idaho nurse pleads guilty in connection with Colorado mother Kelsey Berreth’s disappearance

Crime Scene processing was performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Krystal Lee, 35, of Twin Falls, has pled guilty to tampering with evidence in the disappearance and alleged murder of missing Colorado mother, Kelsey Berreth.

Lee admitted to having an affair with Berreth’s fiancée and father of her child, Patrick Frazee. Lee testified that Frazee asked her to kill Berreth three separate times and demanded she drive to Colorado after the alleged murder as she had a “mess to clean up”.

Lee confessed to cleaning up a grisly crime scene, watching Frazee burn a tote she believed contained Berreth’s body, and disposing of Berreth’s cellphone, purse, and gun in Idaho.

Lee will be sentenced in January 2020 and faces a maximum sentence of up to three years in prison.



Cedric Mitchell

Driver in multiple vehicle crash faces murder charge

Alcohol and Toxicology analyses were performed by Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

Cedric Mitchell, of Twin Falls, was arrested on a first degree murder charge and several counts of aggravated battery after a multiple vehicle crash on June 7, 2019. According to a crash reconstruction expert with Idaho State Police, Mitchell was traveling between 74 and 79 miles per hour on Heyburn Avenue, where the maximum speed limit is 30 miles per hour.

Mitchell crashed into a truck driven by Dwayne Steiner, whose wife Maryann Steiner was a passenger. The impact then pushed their vehicle into the intersection of Blue Lakes Blvd where they collided with two other vehicles. Two days after the crash, Maryann Steiner died from her injuries. A total of 8 people involved in the crash were taken to the hospital.

Police records show Mitchell has a prior criminal history with four felony charges in Arizona for aggravated assault and two charges for failure to appear. If convicted of the first degree murder charge, Mitchell faces a minimum sentence of ten years.