



3.0 Testing Guidelines for Volatiles Analysis

3.1 BACKGROUND

In order to best utilize the resources available to Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISP-FS), whether analysis is performed and the degree of analysis pursued should be guided by all available information. It may not always be necessary and/or appropriate to proceed with sample analysis. For instance, when a valid breath test is obtained for a routine DUI, analysis of a blood sample for ethanol would not provide additional useful information. Another example is when analysis indicates a high blood alcohol value; additional testing for drugs other than ethanol requires extenuating circumstances.

3.2 SCOPE

This method addresses the factors to consider when determining the extent of analysis a volatiles case sample requires. The goal of these considerations is for the efficient utilization of resources in order to provide timely ethanol and other volatiles analysis results to user agencies.

3.3 PROCEDURE

3.3.1 Post-Blood Alcohol or Valid Breath Testing Analysis

3.3.2.1 When ISP-FS laboratory analysis indicates that the ethanol concentration is 0.10/100cc or greater, further testing for additional drugs, in either blood or urine, should not be pursued unless justified by case related circumstances. This is in consideration that the legal limit for ethanol is 0.08 grams per 100 cc blood.

3.3.2.2 If a breath test result is listed on the toxicology submittal form, and no indication of a problem with the test is noted, volatiles analysis should not be pursued unless the agency is contacted and it is determined that either the breath test was invalid or extenuating circumstances are involved.

3.3.2.3 Extenuating circumstances may include the following:

- Fatality or injury accident where additional drug use is suspected.
- Drug Recognition Exam (DRE) supports additional drug use. The DRE officer is reliant on a

confirmation of their observations to maintain their certification.

- Drug related charges stemming from controlled substance and/or paraphernalia recovered from vehicle. Additional analysis could serve to support a possession charge.

3.3.2.4 The submitting officer or agency is responsible for providing justification for additional testing. Justification could take the form of a memo, e-mail or letter outlining the situation and a case report.

3.3.2.5 If the ethanol concentration is 0.10 or lower, future testing for other impairing drugs will not be pursued if the additional testing is not requested on the *Toxicology Evidence Submittal Form*.

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Revision History

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Revision No.	Issue Date	History
0	03-09-2005	Original Issue
1	05-07-2007	Updated format
2	07-28-2008	Updated Volatiles Analysis Criteria, 5.9.3.2. Reformatted.
0	01-20-2011	Initial version as a volatiles analytical method. Previously a portion of AM 5.9.
1	08-23-2011	Alcohol AM 7 rev 0 was renumbered to 3.X rev 1