



News Release

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ISP Crime Labs Reaccredited, now to include breath alcohol instrumentation and THC quantitation

The Idaho State Police is proud to announce all three of the forensic service laboratories were recently reaccredited for another 4 year cycle by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). A2LA is among the largest accreditation bodies in the world. ISP was accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/ Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) from 1987 to 2017, and upgraded to the international ISO 17025 accreditation program under A2LA in 2017.

The Idaho State Police has forensic science labs in Pocatello, Meridian, and Coeur d'Alene.

New this year, ISP Forensic Services (ISPFs) completed an intensive process to add breath alcohol instrument calibration and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) quantitation to the scope of accredited testing offered by the laboratory. While the ISP forensic laboratories have for many years, as authorized by Idaho Administrative Code, calibrated the breath testing instruments used by every law enforcement officer and law enforcement agency in Idaho, adding this level of external assessment to the program adds to public confidence.

"Our team of scientists works very hard to reach and maintain these strict standards, and international accreditation is something we're very proud of," said Matthew Gamette, the Laboratory Systems Director for Idaho State Police Forensic Services.

"ISP was an early adopter of accreditation, and the agency continues to meet the most stringent forensic science standards. Work done by the ISP Crime Labs is essential to Idaho's criminal justice system, and accreditation is about maintaining public trust and confidence in that work. It ensures that our lab management includes operating and quality assurance policies and procedures that are strictly followed as a daily part of lab operations." Said Gamette.

To maintain A2LA accreditation, outside assessors independently evaluate laboratory manuals, reports, and corrective actions. Representatives of A2LA regularly visit the ISP laboratories to assess compliance to international standards and laboratory policy and procedure.

"ISPFs has always performed breath alcohol instrument calibration with the strictest of scientific methods. But having outside assessors evaluate the process and results means stakeholders can have even more confidence in the laboratory

system.” Said Gamette. “ISPFS is one of only a few breath alcohol instrument calibration programs in the country, and that demonstrates our commitment to quality for the citizens of Idaho.”

In addition, and as requested by Governor Little and the Idaho legislature, ISPFS added tetrahydrocannabinol quantitation to the scope of accredited testing offered by the laboratory. Adding this testing to ISP labs ensures that the laboratory is externally evaluated to meet quality assurance standards and ensures the labs ability to differentiate between hemp and marijuana as defined in Idaho code.

For more on Idaho State Police Forensic Services, go to <https://isp.idaho.gov/forensics/>

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