



# Idaho State Police

Service Since 1939



Colonel G. Jerry Russell  
Director

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November 21, 2011

Idaho Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, and Prosecuting Attorneys:

## DRUG CHEMISTRY AND FIRE EVIDENCE ANALYSIS IN THE ISPFS POCATELLO LAB

Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) desires to update our customers on the status of the ISPFS Pocatello Laboratory. All ISPFS labs are accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) under the ISO 17025:2005 standards and ASCLD/LAB 2011 supplemental requirements for forensic testing laboratories. On November 9<sup>th</sup> 2011, ISPFS received a notification from ASCLD/LAB regarding the accreditation of the ISPFS Pocatello Laboratory. ASCLD/LAB stated that the accrediting organization was satisfied with the actions taken by ISP to resolve the "inappropriate handling of undocumented drug standards" issue in the Pocatello Laboratory. ASCLD/LAB further documented that they felt the ISP response was "appropriate and complete." The drug standard issue in the Pocatello Laboratory was fully resolved by the accrediting organization, and no further action was requested by ASCLD/LAB on the matter. The Pocatello Laboratory remains fully accredited in drug chemistry and all other disciplines listed on their scope of accreditation.

All three ISPFS labs continue to be accredited by ASCLD/LAB in controlled substance analysis. However, due to a lack of staffing from the resignation of several scientists in May 2011, ISPFS temporarily suspended controlled substance analysis and fire debris analysis in the Pocatello Laboratory. ISPFS transferred the drug chemistry/controlled substance cases to the Meridian Laboratory and worked with several other accredited state labs to provide fire debris analysis. ISPFS is in the process of hiring and training personnel for the vacant Pocatello positions. These individuals will be trained in our other ISPFS laboratories. Once trained, these analysts will be reassigned on a permanent basis to the Pocatello Laboratory.

The first trained drug chemist will begin in the Pocatello Laboratory (likely in the summer of 2012) after fully completing drug chemistry training in the Meridian Laboratory. This analyst has nearly completed the training program and will complete several months of casework analysis in Meridian before moving physically to Pocatello. Please continue to send your controlled substance cases to the Meridian Laboratory until you receive official communication from ISPFS to do otherwise.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work through this issue.

Sincerely,

Major Kedrick Wills  
Police Services Commander  
Idaho State Police

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