



Idaho State Police

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Director

Brad Little
Governor

To: All Idaho Law Enforcement Agencies
From: Matthew Gamette, ISP Forensic Services Laboratory System Director
Subject: **Property Crimes DNA Testing Initiative**
Date: April 12, 2022

The Idaho State Police Forensic Services (ISPFS) laboratory offers DNA analysis in felony property crime cases and is encouraging agencies to immediately submit evidence from property crimes for DNA analysis, as part of a property crimes initiative. The intent of this initiative is to perform DNA analysis on evidence from property crimes and enter the resulting evidence profiles into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for comparison to evidence in other cases. CODIS allows for the comparison of these profiles to convicted offender samples and evidence from other cases at the state and national level. The goal of this initiative is to provide investigative leads in unsolved cases.

Another key objective is to prevent future violent crimes against persons. Studies have shown that property crimes are often a gateway crime to more violent crimes against persons such as aggravated assault, sexual assault, and homicide. Violent offenders typically have a criminal history that includes multiple property crimes. If the offender's DNA can be entered in CODIS at the first offense, it will increase the likelihood of preventing future violent crimes against persons, or of more quickly identifying the perpetrator of violent crimes without a known suspect.

Per the Crime in Idaho Crimes Against Property Statistics report, in 2020, Idaho reported a total of 36,165 crimes against property. The resulting monetary loss as a result of these crimes was in excess of 40 million dollars, causing insurance rates for the state to go up. Our hope is this initiative will reduce property crimes in Idaho, thus reducing overall insurance rates for Idahoans. ISPFS has designated separate workflows for this property crimes initiative. In addition, grant funding has been used to purchase instrumentation and fund full time positions to support a high throughput model for this workflow. Submission and testing of these cases will not negatively impact turnaround times for the other cases being submitted to our DNA unit for analysis.

Evidence Submissions:

- Please limit the first submission to two (2) evidentiary items, unless there is reasonable belief multiple perpetrators may be involved.

The most common evidentiary items submitted in property crime cases for DNA analysis are blood swabs and items left at the scene by the perpetrator (e.g. clothing, masks, cigarette butts, drink containers, etc.).

700 S. Stratford Drive • Meridian, Idaho 83642-6202

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ISPFS is not currently accepting handled/touch DNA from property crimes, such as tools. However, these items may still be eligible for latent print analysis.

- Please submit any known reference samples at the same time as evidentiary items. This includes references from identified suspects (if available) and individuals whose DNA may be present unrelated to the crime, such as property owners, etc. Reference samples are not included in the number of evidence items accepted above.

Known reference samples can be blood or oral (buccal) samples.

The packaging of known reference samples must be labeled with the full name of the individual from whom the sample was collected.

If you have any questions, please contact the ISPFS Meridian Laboratory's DNA Casework Unit at (208) 884-7170 or at r3lab@isp.idaho.gov.