



B48 Determination of Methamphetamine on the Surface With Drugwipe® Analytical Device

Elzbieta J. Kubicz, PhD, Wyoming State Crime Laboratory, 316 West 22nd Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the use of Drugwipe® to detect methamphetamine and other drugs in sweat, saliva, and on surfaces.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating how Drugwipe® is a simple, non-expensive presumptive test.

The connection between substance abuse and criminal activity is clear. Since the 1990s, methamphetamine has been considered the primary drug threat in Wyoming and has been a priority for state and local law enforcement agencies. Methamphetamine is a powerful stimulant which affects the central nervous system and causes behaviors such as anxiety, insomnia, paranoia, hallucinations, mood swings, and delusions. Both meth producers and abusers have been involved in violent crimes in Wyoming to obtain money to support their meth habits. A startling number of these crimes include domestic violence ranging from child neglect to homicide. Of the six neglect and abuse related deaths of children investigated by the Wyoming Child Fatality Review Board in 2003, 5 were associated with meth use by parents or caregivers.

Methamphetamine is truly a substance that has had direct effect on criminal activity in Wyoming (State of Wyoming, Department of Health, Substance Abuse, January 2005).

This statistics alone indicates the need for a device for speedy on- site detection and identification of the presence of Methamphetamine.

Drugwipe® from Securetec meets these requirements. The main advantages of Drugwipe® are its small size, fast response time, and low false positives.

The presentation will focus only on the detection of traces of the drug on surfaces (test can be used also on the skin-sweat on in saliva).

Validation studies of this product have been performed by several laboratories; among them: Securetec, German Traffic Police, ROSITA and gave very promising results. Major goals are to test selectivity of methamphetamine answer on multi-testing capability of Drugwipe® assays in one device and recover the sample after testing for the definitive analysis.

Methamphetamine, Drugwipe®, Detection