

IACP Cooperation and Collaboration with Medicolegal Death Investigation Systems

Submitted by: Forensics Committee

Co-sponsored by: Police Investigative Operations Committee

WHEREAS the process of medicolegal death investigation has important implications for criminal justice, public health, public safety communities; and

WHEREAS United States (US) medicolegal death investigation system structures (coroner and medical examiner offices) vary by state, county, and city; and

WHEREAS law enforcement roles in medicolegal death investigation vary by state, county, and city; and

WHEREAS the law enforcement and medicolegal death investigation systems have independent but overlapping responsibilities; and

WHEREAS medicolegal death investigation officials are responsible for determining cause and manner of death, and thereby responsible for identifying deaths which may be criminal in nature; and

WHEREAS medicolegal death investigation quality may hinder or aid law enforcement efforts to investigate deaths that are criminal in nature; and

WHEREAS efforts to the improve and standardize US medicolegal death investigation includes development of standards, certification of medicolegal death investigators, and accreditation of medicolegal death investigation offices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) encourages all law enforcement agencies to facilitate cooperation and collaboration with their local medicolegal death investigation systems in a manner that ensures the best possible outcome of all medicolegal death investigations, including criminal investigations, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that law enforcement agencies should consider encouraging coroner and medical examiner offices to have all medicolegal death investigators certified and all coroner and medical examiner offices accredited in order to promote and support the highest possible quality of medicolegal death investigation in all cities, counties, and states.

Including Any Impairing Substance or Drug in Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) Statutes

Submitted by: IACP Drug Recognition Expert Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“IACP”) recognizes that drug-impaired driving constitutes a significant roadway safety problem; and

WHEREAS, there is limited awareness that drugged drivers are less frequently detected, prosecuted, or referred to treatment when compared with alcohol impaired drivers; and

WHEREAS, according to reports such as the U.S 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 13.6 million people drove under the influence of drugs in the U.S. (1); and the Canadian 2020 Police-Reported Crime Statistics show a 15.6% increase from 2019 to 2021 in the number of police reported drug-driving incidents (5); and

WHEREAS, an analysis of impaired driving laws indicates there is a lack of uniformity or consistency in how jurisdictions/political subdivisions deal with drugged drivers (2); and

WHEREAS, there is a need for national leadership in the U.S. and Canada to develop model statutes and to encourage jurisdictions to modify their laws to be more effective when dealing with impairing substances and/or drugs; and

WHEREAS, impaired driving data should differentiate between drugged driving and alcohol-impaired driving to better understand the impact of drugged driving, and

WHEREAS, traffic fatalities involving polysubstance use involving two or more impairing drugs in combination, with cannabis and alcohol being the most common combination, and which doubled from 2000 to 2018 in the U.S. (3); and

WHEREAS, according to the [IACP Drug Recognition Expert \(DRE\) annual reports](#), from 2018 to 2022, approximately 41 percent of all drug influence evaluations conducted by DREs in the United States and Canada involved multiple drugs and/or substances (4); and

WHEREAS, incidents of impaired driving involving impairing drugs combined with alcohol are up to 200 times more likely to cause a crash (5) and should therefore result in additional sanctions; be it

RESOLVED, that the IACP recommends all states, provinces, and territories adopt impaired driving laws to include any impairing substance and/or impairing drug and enact laws that create additional sanctions when a combination of impairing drugs and alcohol are involved in impaired driving incidents; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the IACP recommends all states, provinces, and territories support and encourage prosecutors to vigorously prosecute all offenders violating impaired driving laws including those offenses involving impairing substances and/or impairing drugs and any offenses when a combination of impairing drugs and alcohol are involved.

- (1) NSDUH, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2020-nsduh-detailed-tables>
- (2) NHTSA, “2016 Digest of State Laws: Driving Under the Influence of Drugs”, DOT HS 812 468, Mar 2016
- (3) NHTSA, “Drug Impaired Driving”, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired>
- (4) IACP DRE Annual Reports, 2018 – 2022
- (5) Public Safety Canada, “Annual National Data Report to Inform Trends and Patterns in Drug-Impaired Driving”, 2022

Resolution to Promote Implementation of and Adherence to Forensic Science Standards

Submitted by: Forensics Committee

Co-Sponsored by: Digital Evidence, Firearms, Police Investigative Operations, Arsons & Explosives,
Roadway Safety, Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs

WHEREAS police professionals have a responsibility to advocate the critical role of forensic science service providers to recognize, collect, and analyze physical and digital evidence; and interpret and report results to provide investigative leads and support legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS police professionals and forensic science service providers have independent but overlapping responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the process of developing, publishing, and implementing forensic science standards have important implications for criminal justice, public health, and public safety communities; and

WHEREAS forensic science standards enhance the validity, reliability, and impartiality of results in all jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS a forensic science standard published by national or international standards development organizations specifies minimum criteria or best practice recommendations using a consensus-based process; and

WHEREAS the National Institute of Standards and Technology established the Organization of Scientific Area Committees Forensic Science Registry, a global repository of selected published and proposed standards; and

WHEREAS efforts to improve and standardize all forensic science services include development and implementation of standards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the International Association of Chiefs of Police encourages policing agencies to collaborate with forensic science service providers, standards development organizations, and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that policing agencies should encourage all forensic science service providers to implement and adhere, to the extent possible, to published forensic science standards.

Support for ANSI/[TMA-AVS-01](#) 2023 Alarm Validation Scoring Standard

Submitted by: Private Sector Liaison Section

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) supports efforts of the life safety, alarm, and electronic security industries, represented by the Security Industry Alarm Coalition(SIAC) and Partnership for Priority Verified Alarm Response(PPVAR); and,

WHEREAS, IACP recognizes the importance of strong relationships between law enforcement and the private sector; and,

WHEREAS, IACP recognizes the importance of accurate timely communicated information to maximize officer safety and efficiency in the deployment of law enforcement resources; and,

WHEREAS, IACP acknowledges that correctly installed, operated and monitored electronic security systems are effective resources which help to deter crime, assist in apprehensions, reduce property loss and potentially save lives; and,

WHEREAS, IACP recognizes the need to focus on the credibility of alarms received by law enforcement/first responder call centers from alarm companies and private entities through the establishment of defined threat levels as contained in AVS-01, will allow for agencies to deploy limited resources efficiently and communicate situational information to responding officers for greater officer/community safety, is duly vetted and recommended by the Private Sector Liaison Section; and,

WHEREAS, IACP recognizes the need for and value of communicated threat levels as defined in AVS-01 to achieve the desired expectation of greater alarm recipient and officer safety as well as the ability to better manage resources as experienced by police agencies; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the IACP encourages the use of this ANSI/TMA-AVS-01 2023 Alarm Validation Scoring Standard at all PSAP/ECC operations by law enforcement agencies to further enhance safety and alarm call awareness for the responding officers.

Management of Behavioral Health Emergencies
Submitted by: Police Physicians Section

WHEREAS behavioral health emergencies include Individuals exhibiting severe agitation. Such individuals often are resistant to efforts of control by law enforcement and frequently include irrational, combative and extremely violent behavior. This behavior places members of the public, responding law-enforcement, EMS, and other responders at significant risk of serious injury or even death; and

WHEREAS a behavioral health emergency is deemed to be primarily medical in nature and, therefore, requires emergency medical response. Individuals exhibiting such behavior often suffer from underlying metabolic and medical conditions which place them at risk for further injury or even sudden death; and

WHEREAS the challenge, complexity and high risks associated with the behavioral health emergency REQUIRE a high degree of cooperation with timely critical communication. This specifically requires free flowing dialogue between on-scene law enforcement, EMS personnel and mental health professionals. This dialogue is crucial to achieve timely control which helps assure scene safety and ultimately enhances timely care for the patient; and

WHEREAS verbal de-escalation techniques should be employed as the first and least restrictive method to gain control. However, if unsuccessful, the need for physical restraints and medication administration may not only be necessary, but clearly medically indicated in the best interest of patient care; and

WHEREAS the decision for use and administration of medication is the responsibility of the Emergency Medicine Provider and not within the purview of law enforcement personnel. However, close collaboration between on scene law enforcement and emergency medical service is critical because these situations are inherently dangerous and volatile. It is imperative to determine the safest strategy to manage the patient, assure control and establish scene safety; and

WHEREAS such collaboration requires a “Team Approach” with ongoing dialogue and clear discussion between law enforcement, emergency medical service providers and mental health providers if they are present. Such communication

must be free and not encumbered or restricted by law, regulation, or the threat of loss of professional certification or criminal sanction against law enforcement personnel or any other team member; therefore be it

RESOLVED that The IACP believes law enforcement personnel, emergency medical personnel and behavioral mental health personnel should work as a Team to resolve a behavioral emergency expediently. The medical condition of the individual at risk is a primary priority of those engaged in this unique rescue; now, therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that protocol development, training and oversight should involve a physician with demonstrable knowledge and training in the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the medical conditions that are related to Sudden Death in Custody; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that no individual should be sanctioned for the communication required to rapidly resolve these crises.

INCORPORATION OF RAPID DNA IN MASS DISASTER RESPONSE PLANS

Submitted by: Forensic Science Committee

WHEREAS, law enforcement plays a critical role in the response to mass disasters; and

WHEREAS, effective mass disaster response requires collaboration between multiple entities, including medical examiner and coroner offices, law enforcement agencies, emergency management organizations, and forensic science service providers; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies are increasingly using Rapid DNA technology for criminal investigations, missing and unidentified remains identification, and human identification in mass disaster events; and

WHEREAS, Rapid DNA technology can provide human identification results in a matter of hours, compared to traditional laboratory DNA analysis, which can take weeks or months; and

WHEREAS, Rapid DNA devices are portable and require minimal technical expertise to operate, making them suitable for onsite use by response personnel, to include remote or resource-limited settings; and

WHEREAS, Rapid DNA technology provides accurate results that can ensure unidentified individuals are correctly identified; and

WHEREAS, Rapid DNA technology can help provide closure to families and assist in the repatriation of remains to loved ones through the use of family DNA reference samples; and

WHEREAS, forensic science service providers are uniquely qualified to provide subject matter expertise for DNA analysis in accordance with quality assurance protocols; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police encourages all law enforcement agencies to coordinate with forensic science service providers to assess whether Rapid DNA technology, complemented with traditional laboratory DNA analysis, is available for use in their jurisdiction in the event of a mass disaster; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the IACP encourages all law enforcement agencies to incorporate Rapid DNA technology, where available, into formalized mass disaster response plans.

Support for the National Move Over Initiative

Submitted by: Roadway Safety Committee, State & Provincial Police Division, Midsized Agencies Division, and State Associations of Chiefs of Police Division

(Updated 2024)

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police are concerned with the safety of police officers, firefighters, other emergency workers, tow truck operators, and roadway service workers as they perform their duties on roadways; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*, every year police officers are killed or seriously injured in struck by vehicle incidents, i.e., at the time of their deaths they were conducting traffic stops, roadblocks, directing traffic, assisting motorists, or were engaged in similar activities; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to safeguard police officers, firefighters, other emergency workers, tow truck operators, and roadway service workers whose duties require them to utilize the roadside, all 50 states and some countries have enacted Move Over legislation that typically requires motorists to either change lanes and/or slow down when approaching a law enforcement or emergency services vehicle that is parked or stopped on the roadside; and

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police support education and enforcement of Move Over legislation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police support international efforts to ensure the roadside safety of police officers, firefighters, other emergency workers, tow truck operators, and roadway service workers in countries around the world.