

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division



Breath Alcohol Unit Standard Operating Procedures Manual
BREATH ALCOHOL FORENSIC SCIENTIST TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

11. BREATH ALCOHOL FORENSIC SCIENTIST TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

11.1.

Forensic Scientists training in the area of Breath Alcohol will be trained for a period of 12-16 weeks.

- The length of this training may depend upon any previous work experience at the TBI Crime Laboratory.
- All training events, courses, and observations by the scientist will be documented in their training notebook.

11.2.

Prior to becoming a trained Breath Alcohol Scientist, the Forensic Scientist must attend the pertinent evidentiary instrumentation courses given by the instrument manufacturer. Ex: EC/IR II and ASV-XL training at Intoximeters, Inc.

- Whenever a new evidentiary instrument is going to be used in the State of TN, all Breath Alcohol Scientists and the Breath Alcohol Supervisor/Technical Leader must attend the appropriate manufacturer's course.

11.3.

The Robert F. Borckenstein Course on Alcohol should be attended as soon as possible.

11.4.

Attendance to an International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) annual meeting, application for membership, and regularly attending meetings is encouraged.

11.5.

The Scientist in training will observe other Breath Alcohol Scientists as they certify evidentiary instruments throughout the state. This may require travel to a regional crime laboratory.

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11.6.

The Scientist in training will also observe trained Breath Alcohol Scientists conducting operator certification courses. These observations will be documented in their training notebook.

11.7.

The Scientist in training will make breath alcohol presentations on Alcohol and Its Effects on the Human Body, The History of Breath Alcohol Testing, Fuel Cell Technology, Infrared Absorption, and a presentation on each type of the evidentiary breath testing instrument currently in use in the State of Tennessee. The Scientist will also conduct mock operator certification courses.

11.8.

The Scientist in training will observe court testimony of breath alcohol cases. They will become familiar with current court rulings dealing with Breath Alcohol testimony and State v. Sensing requirements. These observations will be documented in their training notebook.

11.9.

The Scientist in training will complete certifications and adjustments on training instruments (instruments not in the field) under the supervision of another trained Breath Alcohol Scientist. They must prove competent in these procedures before completing their training.

11.10.

The Scientist in training will conclude their training period with a mock trial and a successful competency test.