

RAPID DNA LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



Arizona Department of Public Safety Scientific Analysis Bureau (SAB)

FAST FACTS

The Arizona Department of Public Safety was the first state agency in the country to bring a program of this type online to aid in investigations.

As of March 2021, over 580 cases have been run through the Arizona Rapid program with over 205 investigative leads generated.

As of March 2021, there are over 40 active Rapid operators from 14 agencies statewide.



WHAT IS THE RAPID DNA LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM?

The Arizona Department of Public Safety Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Program trains officers and crime scene technicians to become operators of the Rapid DNA instrument. Through this training, these operators are able to run select samples from crime scenes to generate DNA profiles in under two hours and develop investigative leads in cases.

WHAT IS RAPID DNA?

Rapid DNA is a technology that allows the multiple steps of DNA analysis on a sample to be performed very quickly (typically in less than two hours) using a single instrument.

HOW ARE INVESTIGATIVE LEADS DEVELOPED?

Rapid operators take samples from crime scenes, prepare them for running on the Rapid instrument, and start the run. When the run is complete, the operator either compares the DNA profile developed to a known profile to determine a match or the operator enters the DNA profile into a standalone database of offender and arrestee profiles to search for a match.

WHAT TYPES OF SAMPLES CAN BE RUN IN THE RAPID DNA LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM?

Suspected single source DNA samples (samples believed to be from one individual). This can include blood, saliva, semen, and some trace DNA samples.

WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING DO OPERATORS RECEIVE?

Rapid DNA operators go through an intensive 40 hours training course that includes basic biology and principles of DNA analysis, proper sample gathering and preparation, use of the instrument and database, DNA profile interpretation, and court testimony. Recertification is required at intervals.

CAN AGENCIES WITHOUT RAPID OPERATORS STILL RUN CASES?

The Rapid operators are a cooperative network and often run cases for one another. Law enforcement agencies without trained Rapid operators can still benefit from the program by contacting the Arizona Department of Public Safety SAB to request assistance. Information on the need for assistance is then conveyed to the Rapid operator group to determine if someone is available to run the sample on behalf of the requesting agency.

For further information, contact the Arizona Department of Public Safety Central Regional Crime Lab at (602) 223-2394.