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## NAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

The Nampa Police Department, in its continual effort to combat impaired driving, has recently taken part in a groundbreaking program that trains Police Officers to be qualified phlebotomists. This training is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is presented by the College of Western Idaho. The law enforcement phlebotomy program is modeled after the program that has been in place in Arizona for over 13 years.

By having Police Officers trained as qualified phlebotomists, officers are able to conduct blood draws on subjects who do not consent to breath or other chemical testing during impaired driver related investigations. Officers are able to obtain blood samples without the added expense of having a hospital perform the blood draw, and are able to maintain a better chain of custody by allowing law enforcement to have custody from the beginning to the end.

The Nampa Police Department would like to get the word out that if you drive while impaired, you will not be given the ability to refuse evidentiary tests. If an impaired driver refuses an offered test, an involuntary blood draw will be conducted. The inability to refuse evidentiary tests furthers the Nampa Police Department's commitment to making our highways safer, removing the impaired drivers from the roadways, and working "Towards Zero Deaths."

The Nampa Police Department would like to invite members of the media to attend a presentation where they can observe the current phlebotomy class in action and witness officers performing blood draws. Attendees will be given the opportunity to talk to officers involved in the program and photograph an officer drawing blood. Interviews can also be conducted with phlebotomy instructors and Officer Alan Haywood, Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Coordinator with the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety. If interested in attending the Wednesday morning phlebotomy presentation please contact Sgt. Matt Pavelek at 468-5608 or 697-3770.

Sgt Matthew Pavelek 468-5608