
Purpose

This policy sets forth guidelines governing the use of the Datamaster Transportable and other portable breath testing units by Bemidji Police Personnel.

Policy

It is the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to adequately train and equip department personnel with the tools necessary to capture breath alcohol levels from a subject for evidentiary purposes.

A. Portable breath testing unit (PBT) -

Portable breath testing units, such as an Alco-senor[®], will be used by officers in the field to collect breath alcohol evidence from subjects suspected of committing a crime involving the consumption of alcohol.

- A. All Bemidji Police Officers will receive training on the use of portable breath testing units during their field training program.
- B. Officers will inform subjects on how to give an adequate breath sample into a PBT.
- C. Officers will use a new sterile mouth piece for each individual test and dispose of the used mouth piece in an appropriate trash receptacle.
- D. Every patrol squad car will be equipped with a portable breath testing unit.
- E. Each officer will ensure that the PBT assigned to their patrol squad is checked for calibration each month.
- F. Tolerance level of each PBT will be in conformity to the MN BCA recommendation of +/-005% when using a .076% alcohol vapor canister. (.082% adjusted for elevation)
- G. PBT's which are found to need re-calibration may only be recalibrated by officers who are certified to perform this task.
- H. Calibration records will be retained at the law enforcement center. If needed for court, Officers will make a copy of the original record for that purpose.

B. Datamaster Transportable (DMT) -

The Datamaster Transportable[®] is an instrument designed to determine the amount of alcohol in a subjects body through a breath sample. The DMT has been determined by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension as an accurate and impartial test for alcohol concentration.

- A. Only officers that have attended and satisfactorily completed the MN BCA breath test operator course are authorized to use the DMT.
- B. Officers must perform breath testing procedures with the DMT as instructed.
- C. Any malfunctions of the instrument should be brought to the attention on a BPD supervisor and the MN BCA Forensic Sciences Services Lab immediately.
- D. The DMT report will be included in the case file.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

- A. REVISION DATE(S):