

EyeDetect Used to Question Sex Solicitation Crime Suspects

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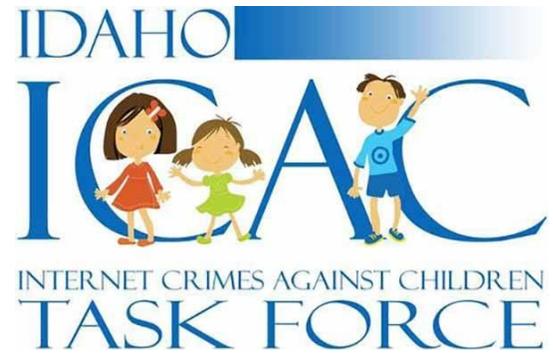
An Idaho law enforcement official

BACKGROUND

In November 2018, several Idaho law enforcement agencies conducted a sting operation dubbed “Operation Grand Canyon.” The operation was designed to apprehend those suspected of sex solicitation crimes.

The Idaho [Internet Crimes Against Children](#) (ICAC) task force in the Boise area supervised the operation while working with several other law enforcement agencies. From past experience, Idaho ICAC officials know those arrested typically claim the incident is their first time.

Using a polygraph to question suspects on site, at the time of arrest, regarding additional previous offenses wasn’t feasible because: 1) It’s difficult to find enough trained polygraph examiners that are available after hours, 2) Law enforcement needed a lie detector test that’s faster than the standard 2-3 hour polygraph exam, and 3) It was important to get the results immediately (polygraph can take several hours for the examiner to interpret results).



EYEDTECT IMPLEMENTED

A special agent and polygraph examiner working for one of these law enforcement agencies was initially interested in using [EyeDetect](#) because the test is automated and doesn’t require an examiner, the investigative test only takes 15 minutes, and the results are available within 5 minutes. Another advantage EyeDetect gives law enforcement is it provides unbiased, accurate data that can then be used in a follow-up interview to illicit a confession.

This agent said: “Law enforcement officials, including Idaho ICAC, Idaho State Police and Homeland Security Investigations typically encounter a large number of subjects in short-time period during these operations targeting individuals involved in child exploitation. Conducting a polygraph examination on each subject encountered to determine if he has had any sexual contact with minors since becoming an adult is unrealistic due to resources available and the time of night law enforcement officials may encounter some of the subjects. EyeDetect was utilized with some of the subjects encountered during Operation Grand Canyon with the test being focused on if any sexual contact with minors has occurred since he became an adult.”

RESULTS

According to a Nov. 5, 2018 article in the [Idaho Statesman](#), 11 people were arrested. Seven suspects now face prosecution for state charges and four have been referred for federal charges. In working with other ICAC groups, Converus has found that many of the suspects tested fail and then confess to something during the post-test interview. The ICAC team can then test them again, with a focus on: “Other than what you’ve already revealed, have you had any sexual contact with a minor since you became an adult?”

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Idaho law enforcement officials were able to quickly and accurately test — on-site — those suspected of child sex solicitation crimes.