Breath Alcohol Testing – A Webinar for Litigators

Date: September 4, 2020  
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  
How: Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing  
Credit: 1.5 general credits. * No substance abuse or ethics credit. *  
Materials: The meeting link and materials will be sent in advance of the program date.  
Registration: To register, please email jarrod.hickman@dids.nv.gov by August 28, 2020.

NOTE: This presentation will be recorded.

Faculty: David Astles, Forensic Analyst of Alcohol, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, Forensic Science Division.

Presentation Outline:
1. Alcohol in the body  
   - Absorption, distribution and elimination of alcohol in the body  
   - How alcohol creates impairment  
2. Why and how breath alcohol testing works  
   - Respiratory elimination of alcohol from inside the body  
   - Detection technologies for measuring alcohol in the breath  
3. Statutory & regulatory framework for evidentiary breath testing in Nevada  
   - Review of NRS 484C and NAC 484C with respect to breath alcohol testing  
   - Discussion of the role of Forensic Analysts of Alcohol  
   - Calibration and related requirements  
   - Operator certification  
4. The Nevada breath alcohol testing protocol  
   - The Nevada Intoxilyzer 8000 Checklist  
5. Accuracy and reliability of breath alcohol tests  
   - Reported Measurement Uncertainty versus “margin of error”  
   - The difference between instrumental variability and breath-to-breath variation (i.e. subject variability)  
6. Potential confounding factors  
   - Mouth alcohol issues and safeguards  
   - Interferent issues and safeguards  
   - Medical Conditions (GERD, diabetes, auto-brewery syndrome)  
   - Other potential confounding factors (real and imagined)