Forensic Scientist - Fire Analysis/Controlled Substances Discipline

ISP Forensic Scientist 1

Idaho State Police

Open for Recruitment: April 22, 2014 - May 11, 2014
Announcement # 07432063391
Salary Range: $21.65 per hour -Plus Competitive Benefits!

Location(s): Coeur d'Alene

The successful applicant will be required to complete a background investigation and polygraph examination, which includes drug screening. Please see the Idaho State Police Drug Policy at the end of this announcement.

All Idaho State Police Forensic Laboratories are accredited by ASCLD/LAB International and to the ISO 17025 Standard. Idaho State Police Forensic Laboratories serve state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies; state and county prosecutors; and public defenders.

The Forensic Scientist 1 is an entry-level position that works under the direct supervision of a more experienced Forensic Scientist. The Forensic Scientist 1 position converts to a Forensic Scientist 2 position upon successful completion of a specified training program and approximately two (2) years in a Forensic Scientist 1 position.

Note: Preference will be given to experienced Scientists who meet the minimum qualifications and qualifying work experience* of the Fire Analyst Forensic Scientist 2. A candidate meeting at the higher level will be certified to a Forensic Scientist 2 position upon completion of a qualifying examination and a six-month probationary period and the pay adjusted accordingly.

*Qualifying work experience for a Forensic Scientist 2 includes a minimum of two (2) years working independently planning, managing, and prioritizing caseloads; successfully engaging in independent research, evaluation, and validation activities; performing and documenting a range of examinations regarding forensic evidence; providing training and consultation services to professional criminal justice and scientific audiences; and testifying as an expert regarding forensic examinations, as applicable.

Responsibilities:

• Conduct complex examinations for evidence and develop analytical findings in fire analysis and controlled substances examinations
• Perform examinations following defined analytical methods and other quality standards
• Maintain established standards of laboratory cleanliness, safety, and efficiency
• Provide assistance at complex crime scenes
• Train police officers in processing and collection of evidence
• Interpret findings for prosecutors and defense attorneys, prepare attorneys for presentation of findings
• Provide expert opinion and witness testimony regarding scientific finding
• May be cross trained in other disciplines such as blood alcohol analysis or toxicology

Minimum Qualifications:

• A baccalaureate or advanced degree in biology, chemistry, or a closely related science field from a regionally accredited college or university. Coursework must include one year general chemistry, one year organic chemistry, as well as one course (or equivalent of) quantitative analysis.
• The successful candidate will be required to obtain certification by the American Board of Criminalistics within three (3) years of being hired (if not currently certified).
Ranking Items:
The following are not minimum requirements for this position. Extra credit may be given if you have the experience and or qualifications listed below:

- Experience working as a scientist in a professional laboratory environment, preferably a forensic laboratory, or experience performing independent study/research activities that may include fire analysis
- Work study or internship experience in a forensic laboratory
- Certification with the American Board of Criminalistics
- Bachelor of Science or an advanced degree in chemistry