



## ORO VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### Memorandum

**Date:** September 9, 2008  
**To:** Lt. Schaefer  
**From:** John Commissaris  
**RE:** Meth Scanner from CDEX

Active evidence from eight illegal narcotic cases was examined using the CDEX scanner. Descriptions and results are listed below:

1. Baggie with brown substance – Negative alert – Substance is heroin
2. Baggie with white powder – Negative alert – Substance is cocaine
3. Brown chunky substance – Negative alert – Substance is heroin
4. .28 grams of meth – Positive alert for meth
5. Plastic bags with meth – Positive alert for meth
6. Clear plastic bag with white crystalline substance – Positive alert for meth
7. Clear plastic baggie with meth – Positive alert for meth
8. Small pink bag with meth – Positive alert for meth

The scanner was tested with substances that were known to be methamphetamines and other substances that content were unknown at time of test. Tests were conducted without removing any of the original small baggies from larger zip lock bags that officers used for packaging. So, the scanners beam had to penetrate two thicknesses of clear bags for result. In all cases of the known meth the scanner alerted immediately to known meth. The scanner also alerted on residue from within the bag. The scanner did not alert on other narcotic substances that might have a similar appearance to meth.

The scanner worked as advertised. It alerted quickly on methamphetamine content and residue that was present in clear baggies. The scanner was able to penetrate a double thickness of baggies for confirmation.

I believe the scanner would be a useful tool for field use in that it would allow for quick presumptuous confirmation of methamphetamines. Tests on suspected meth could be accomplished without having to open suspected baggies of meth and transfer product to containers for chemical tests.