

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Public Safety to Conduct Random Drug Testing of Employees *Director Reiterates Commitment to Safety of Employees, Public*

MONTGOMERY — Department of Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage announced Friday the agency will conduct random drug testing of employees to help ensure their safety and that of the public.

“The use of illegal controlled substances, the abuse of legally obtained controlled substances, or the use or presence of alcohol while on duty jeopardizes the safety of departmental employees and the citizens of this state,” said Coppage.

In accordance with DPS Policy Order 25, testing will be used to detect the unlawful use of alcohol and controlled substances, according to Coppage. The policy also provides that any employee who refuses to submit to testing will be placed on mandatory annual leave and face disciplinary action.

Under the procedure, nonsworn personnel in sensitive positions and arresting officers will be tested, Coppage said. Troops will be selected at random, and employees within troops randomly selected for testing.

Coppage said the policy order providing for random drug testing has been in place since 1991, and that “re-implementing” it is just good public policy.

“It is imperative that we, as law enforcement professionals, set the highest example possible for the public we serve by remaining drug-free,” said Coppage.

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