

(Williamsport, PA)

## **Innovative products help keep the intoxicated off the roads and streets**

By SHAWNA T. TURNER - [sturner@sungazette.com](mailto:sturner@sungazette.com)  
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In 1995 a new drug testing system was developed in Germany that would revolutionize the cost of drug testing individuals suspected of driving under the influence of controlled substances. Two years later, Williamsport became home to the company's American headquarters, according to Sherry Diehl, national sales director for the company.

The American headquarters sits at 460 Market St. in Williamsport's downtown.

One of the company's premier products, the drugwipe, a rapid on-site drug test, can detect drug traces on surfaces as well as saliva.

According to Diehl, 10.9 million people surveyed in 2003, admitted to driving under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. The drugwipe would ease the burden on both the officer pulling over the drugged individual as well as taxpayers.

"(Conventional blood tests) are costly at \$500 to \$1,000 and time-consuming for the officer. When drugwipe is used as a saliva screen at the roadside, it provides the officer with a method to screen for recent consumption of illegal drugs," Diehl said.

The officer would receive the result within five to 10 minutes. In addition, the suspect would only be tested for substances that they tested positive for in the drugwipe.

This method would save taxpayers a considerable amount of money because generally, the suspect would be tested for a whole panel of possible drugs. The drugwipe screen itself is only \$20 to \$30, according to Diehl.

Drugwipe is also beneficial to officers when dealing with drug traffickers who do not use the substances themselves. Drugs can be detected if a person were to simply just handle the substance.

In 1998, drug traffickers found a new way to conceal cocaine. The cocaine was mixed with items which gave it a black color and labeled as "ink toner" or other similar products. Other color reaction based tests did not detect the cocaine because the presence of iron thiocyanate masked a positive reading.

The drugwipe was not immune from a positive screening result of the "black cocaine."



**National sales director Sherry Diehl demonstrates new drug-testing technology, above. One of SecureTec's pioneering developments is the drugwipe, an on-site saliva and surface test, shown package at right.**



Diehl deals closely with law enforcement, schools, probation officers, correction facilities and businesses.

"We have branched out into the schools and the workplace. We are doing assessments of the business or school-owned property. We are not necessarily testing the students or employees but testing desks, computers and lockers in schools. That gives them the information they can use to figure out what drugs they have a problem with and what locations the drugs are found," Diehl said.

In addition to the local agencies, schools and businesses, Diehl also works with the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

Later this month, Diehl will exhibit drug and alcohol testing supplies at the annual Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Conference in Lancaster.

Exhibits later in the year can be found in states such as Arkansas and Colorado.

Even though Securetec has branched out to 20 American states, the goal is to have one in each state, according to Diehl.

For individuals interested in the Securetec product, the Web site can be accessed at [www.securetec.us](http://www.securetec.us).