

Smoke and Barrels Beyond the Bottle

Alan Wombolt, Alex Vargo, Brandon Meyer, and Jason Szemes

Smoke and Barrels, Beyond the Bottle, Will Cover the Following:

Current Agency Structure “Two Divisions”
Why Partner with Excise
Current cases being worked with CID
Operation Bad Business
Difference between THC/CBD/Hemp

Legality of THC/CBD/Hemp
Statutes and Case Law regarding THC/CBD/Hemp
Discuss Pitfalls of Enforcing Marijuana
Current Federal Law Regarding Hemp/Marijuana

Officer Alex Vargo

Legal Affairs for the Indiana State Excise

Officer Vargo has been with ISEP for 13 years, working in various areas across the state as a field enforcement officer. As a field enforcement officer, he has investigated minor complaints and managed long-term investigations. He graduated from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2022 and was admitted to the bar in May of 2023. Officer Vargo currently works out of ISEP headquarters where he provides legal guidance to ISEP/ATC and assists with legislative matters to include marijuana and hemp.

Detective Alan Wombolt

Criminal Investigations Division

Detective Wombolt began his career in law enforcement in 2012, with the last 9 years being with the Indiana State Excise Police. His career started at the Rushville Police Department, where he held positions of Patrol Officer, Narcotics Detective, Quartermaster and FTO. He is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division within the Indiana State Excise Police. Aside from being assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, he is a S.T.O.P's Instructor, Firearms Instructor, General Instructor, Indiana Department of Revenue Liaison, and Forfeiture Specialist for the agency.

Detective Brandon Meyer

Criminal Investigations Division

Detective Meyer began his career in law enforcement in 2014 with the Rushville Police Department where he was assigned to the Patrol Division for 3 years. He later joined the Greensburg Police Department in 2017, where he held various roles ranging from Patrol Officer, Tactical Response Team, Investigations Sergeant, and Assistant Chief of Police. While at the Greensburg Police Department, he developed an Intelligence Led Policing Initiative. He joined the Indiana State Excise Police in 2024, and he's currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, where he is designated to the Metro Drug Task Force. Aside from his daily roles, he is an ILEA General Instructor, SFST Instructor, a S.T.O.P's Instructor and a DRE Instructor.

Detective Jason Szemes

Criminal Investigations Division

Detective Szemes began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Porter County Sheriff's Department, serving in the jail division. Detective Szemes also worked for several small police departments in northwest Indiana on a part-time basis. He is a 2001 graduate of the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. In 2006, Detective Szemes joined the Indiana State Excise Police. Detective Szemes has worked hundreds of short term and long-term investigations during his time with the Indiana State Excise Police, which have included cargo theft operations, financial crimes, welfare/EBT fraud, narcotics investigations, and homicides. Detective Szemes has served as an ILEA General Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, and Field Training Officer. He has been assigned to the Lake County Prosecutors Homicide Task Force since 2023.