**Anthropology**

**Skeletal Remains/Bones-Forensic Procedures**

**Policy**

     The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the Kootenai County Coroner’s Office in cases involving skeletal remains/bones as it pertains to the criminal justice process. Through analysis of human remains.

1.  Distinguish human from non-human remains.

     The Kootenai County Coroner’s Office have expertise in proper archeological and biological anthropology methodology.  They are able to conduct proper excavations of buried or scattered remains found at crime scenes, in mass fatalities, fire, etc., as well as assisting in locating hidden burials or graves.  Forensic Anthropologists are responsible for contacting the appropriate agency (BLM/ SHPO) regarding native human remains.

  Forensic Anthropology responsibilities and services provided by the Kootenai County Coroner’s Office include:

* determine if remains are human or non-human
* determine if remains are modern or historic
* identify remains pertaining to age, sex, stature, and ancestry
* estimate time since death
* excavate remains and secure associated evidence
* search for and recover hidden remains or graves
* provide guidance to ensure proper handling of Native American remains
* assist in handling remains that have been damaged/fragmented by fire, explosions or
* scattered at crime scenes, or in mass fatalities
* Obtain proper resources to complete a Forensic Anthropology case is properly identified and handled.