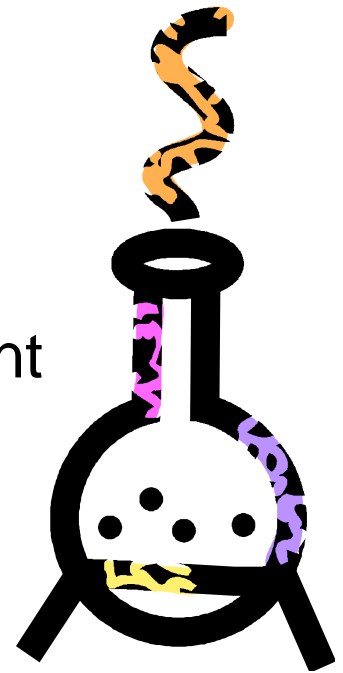


Clean Up and Inspection of Meth Labs

Environmental Health Division
Delaware County Health Department



What is a Meth Lab?

- A Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory (Meth Lab) is an illegal operation consisting of certain chemicals and equipment that has already been used, is being used, or could be used in the future to produce Methamphetamine. The purpose of a Meth Lab is to process ephedrine or pseudo ephedrine, which is commonly found in over the counter cold medicine, into Methamphetamine.

Equipment

- Labs referred to as “Super Labs” and are capable of producing multiple pounds of Methamphetamine during one cooking process.
- Smaller labs, called “Tweaker Labs” or “Box Labs”, are popping up all over and are the most common type. These labs produce only a few grams of Methamphetamine at a time and are often operated by persons strung out on Methamphetamine.



Chemical List

- Aluminum Foil
- Lithium Camera Batteries for the Lithium
- Charcoal Lighter Fluid
- Denatured Alcohol
- Epsom Salt or Magnesium Sulfate
- Gasoline
- Liquid Heet or Methyl Alcohol
- Iodine Crystals or 7% tincture of Iodine
- Kerosene
- Lacquer Thinner
- Mineral Spirits
- Muriatic Acid or Hydrochloric Acid
- Rock Salt
- Drain Cleaner, Liquid Fire, Battery Acid, Starting Fluid or Sulfuric Acid
- Match Striker Plate or Red Phosphorus
- Cold Medicine, Ephedrine, or Pseudo ephedrine
- Anhydrous Ammonia
- Acetone
- Coleman Fuel or other camping fuels
- MSM horse supplement
- Toluene or brake cleaner
- Red Devil Lye or Sodium Hydroxide

Chemicals

The list of chemicals is only a portion of the chemicals that can be used to produce Methamphetamine. There are several methods that can be used to produce Methamphetamine and each method or process has its own list of chemicals that are unique to that process.



Meth Facts



- Many of the chemicals used in the Methamphetamine cooking process are flammable, explosive, corrosive, or produce inhalation dangers that all are deadly.
- 20% of illegal Methamphetamine Labs are discovered as a result of a fire or explosion.

Dangers

- **The cooking process**
 - to the person controlling the cook.
 - to other people that are living at the house where the cook is being conducted
 - people that come into contact with the lab such as neighbors and law enforcement officers involved in the dismantling of the lab.
- **The hazardous wastes** that are left over after the process is complete.

Background

Rule at 318 IAC 1

“Inspection and Cleanup of Property Contaminated with Chemicals Used in the Illegal manufacture of a Controlled Substance:

Effective date: March 23, 2007

What the rule does

- Requires owner of contaminated property to clean it up before reoccupying , re-renting or selling.
- Criteria for qualified inspectors.
- Cleanup requirements and standards.
- Credible document the property owner can use to demonstrate that the property has been cleaned.

Rule 1: Applicability

The rule applies to:

- Owner of the contaminated property.
- Persons who clean up the property.
- Counties that take possession of the contaminated property.

Rule 2: Definitions

- Defines specific terms used in this rule.
- Methods and practices defined.
- Chemicals used in the illegal manufacturing of a controlled substance.
- Qualified inspector.

Rule 3: Property Owner Responsibility

Properties that **MUST** be cleaned up:

- Single or multiple family residences
- Mobile homes
- Hotels or motels
- Businesses
- Vehicles
- Rental storage facilities
- Outbuildings

Rule 3: continued

Properties that **DO NOT** have to be cleaned up:

- Properties not described in previous slide
- Waste collection containers.

Rule 3: continued

- Owner **MUST** clean property before selling or reoccupying.
- Owner **MUST** hire a qualified inspector for IDEM's list.
- Counties are **NOT** required to clean contaminated property that they acquire for back taxes.
- Owners **CAN NOT** do their own decontamination without a qualified inspector.

Rule 3: continued

Options for clean up:

- Decontamination, certify clean
- Removal of all potentially contaminated material, certify clean.
- Demolish the structure.
- Clean or scrap a vehicle.
- Destroy and dispose of watercraft.

Rule 4: Listing by IDEM as a Qualified Inspector

- Please refer to IDEM for a current list of certified and qualified inspectors.
- 1-800-451-6027

Rule 5: Inspection and Decontamination

- Testing
- Removal
- Documentation
- Sampling
- Records

Rule 6: Demolition

- Review reports
- Visually inspect property
- Notify LHC when project will start
- Protect all persons at site
- Remove contaminated soil and materials within 72 hours
- Notify within 5 days that demolition was completed (LHC, ISDH, IDEM)

What the rule **DOES NOT** do

- **DOES NOT** solve every problem that may come up.
- **DOES NOT** guarantee long-term safety or habitability of a property.
- **DOES NOT** guarantee you can make money cleaning up these properties.

What are you looking for?

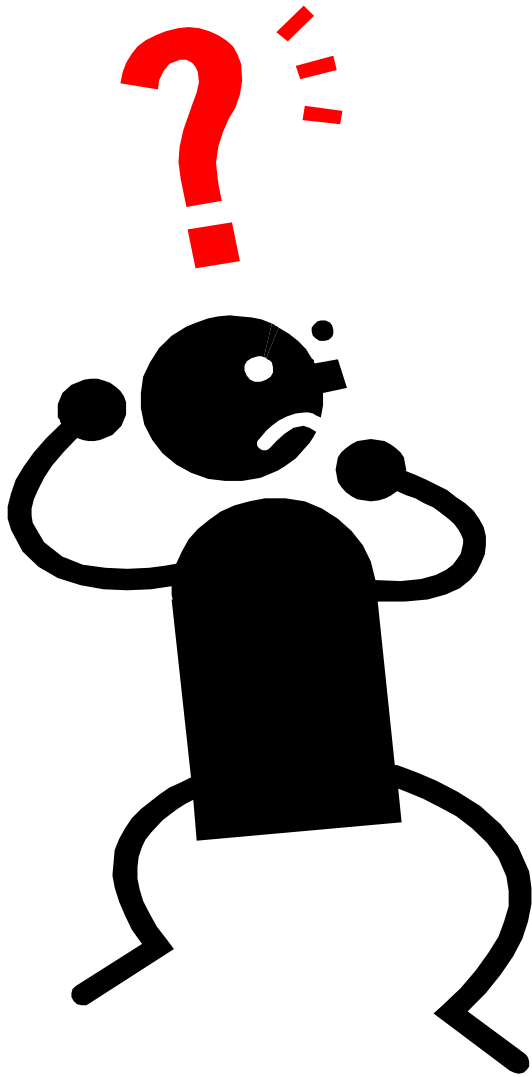
- Pictures of meth labs can **help** renters and home owners can help them **identify** a meth lab home, just by observing the inside and outside of the home.



Beyond the visual cues

- Speak with the neighbors.
- Call the LHD to see if they have records.
- Call the LPD to see if they have records.

Keep in mind that very few homes that have been used to make meth have ever been busted and/or placed on a quarantined list.



Questions?

Delaware County
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