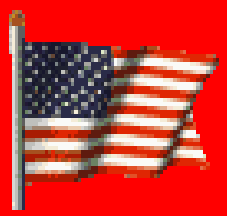
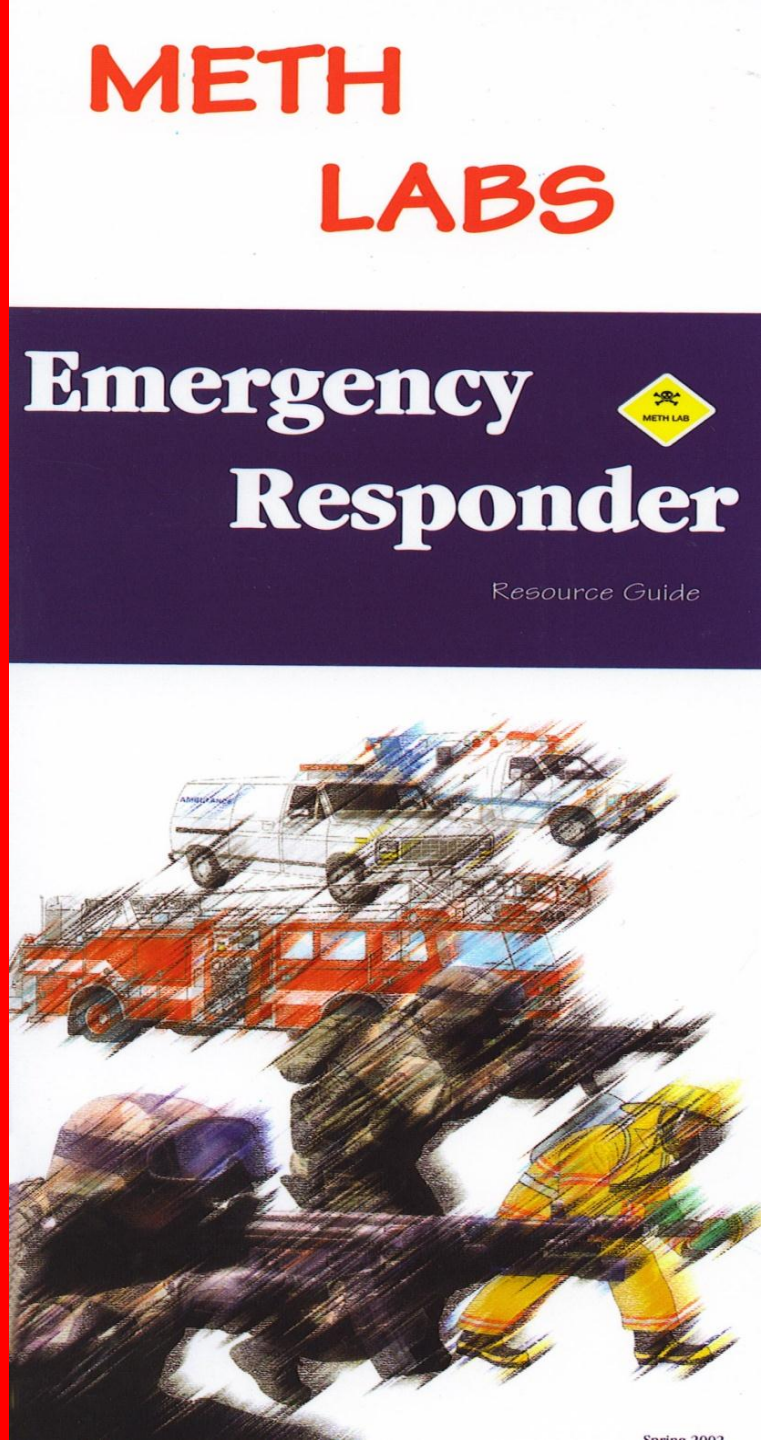
CLANDESTINE DRUG LABS "METH"





Meth Labs

- From 1975 to 2001 DEA seized 13,931 Meth labs
- In 2002 LEA officers seized 250 Super labs in US.
- 66% of labs in California. Other 49 states represent 34%.
- Florida Seizures: 2002 - Meth – 127 Labs

  2003 - Meth – 136 labs.

Alachua County – 10+ arrests @ month for Anhydrous Theft. Perps coming from as far away as Georgia.

FAST FACTS ABOUT METH

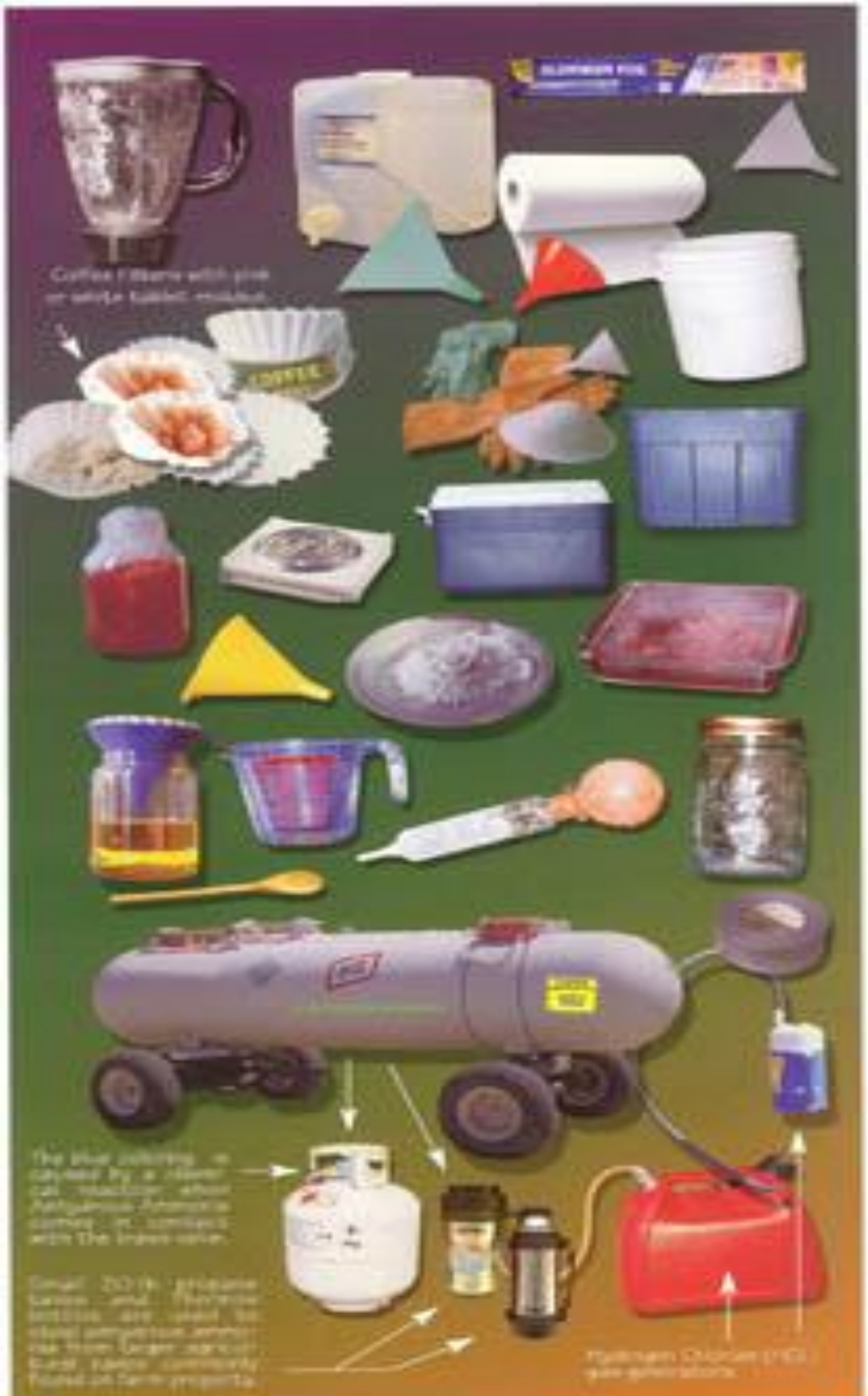
Fact: Meth use by high school seniors more than doubled between 1990 & 1996.
Fact: Women are more likely to use meth than cocaine.
Fact: The average meth "cook" annually teaches ten others how to make meth.
Fact: Every pound of meth produced leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste.
Fact: Seizures of clandestine meth labs increased tenfold from 1995 to 1997.
Fact: Methamphetamine accounts for up to 90 percent of all drug cases in many communities.
Fact: Methamphetamine kills by causing heart failure, brain damage and stroke.
Fact: Methamphetamine-induced paranoia has led to numerous murders and suicides.
Fact: Methamphetamine produces hallucinations.
Fact: Meth users are the hardest to treat of all drug users.
Fact: Meth lab site cleanups can cost up to $150,000. Average $2,000 – $5,000.
Fact: Methamphetamine is highly addictive.
Fact: Meth use increases risk of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence.

Drugs You Can Make at Home

- Methamphetamine
- LSD
- Ecstasy
- GHB (“date rape drug”)
- Known as “Club Drugs”, associated with dance parties known as “Raves”
- Methamphetamine is easiest to produce, the drug most commonly found in labs

Production of Methamphetamine

- Relatively easy – "If you can bake cookies, you can make meth" $ 82.00 of supplies will produce approximately $ 700.00 worth of product.
- All supplies can be obtained at local stores i.e.: Wal-Mart, Sam's, Target.
- Most common method uses phosphorus, ephedrine, and iodine ("red, white, blue")
- Precursors mixed together, product is extracted, precipitated, then purified
- Purity and yield depend on quality of reagents and skill of cook



Acetone
Paint Thinner
DENATURED ALCOHOL
CAMPING FUEL
ROCK SALT
TOLUENE
LYE

CHEMICALS

Ephedrine (Cold Tablets)

Pseudoephedrine (Cold Tablets)

Acetone

Alcohol (Isopropyl or Rubbing)

Toluene (Brake Cleaner)

Ether (Engine Starter)

Sulfuric Acid (Drain Cleaner)

Methanol/Alcohol (Gasoline Additives)

Salt (Table/Rock)

Lithium (Batteries)

Anhydrous Ammonia (Farm Fertilizer)

Sodium Hydroxide (Lye)

Red Phosphorus (Matches/Road Flares)

Muriatic Acid

Iodine (Teat Dip or Flakes/Crystal)

Trichloroethane (Gun Scrubber)

Sodium Metal

MSM (Cutting Agent)

EQUIPMENT

Pyrex or Corning Dishes

Jugs

Bottles

Funnels

Coffee Filters

Thermometer

Cheesecloth

Blender

Rubber Tubing/Gloves

Paper Towels

Gas Can

Tape/Clamps

Hotplate

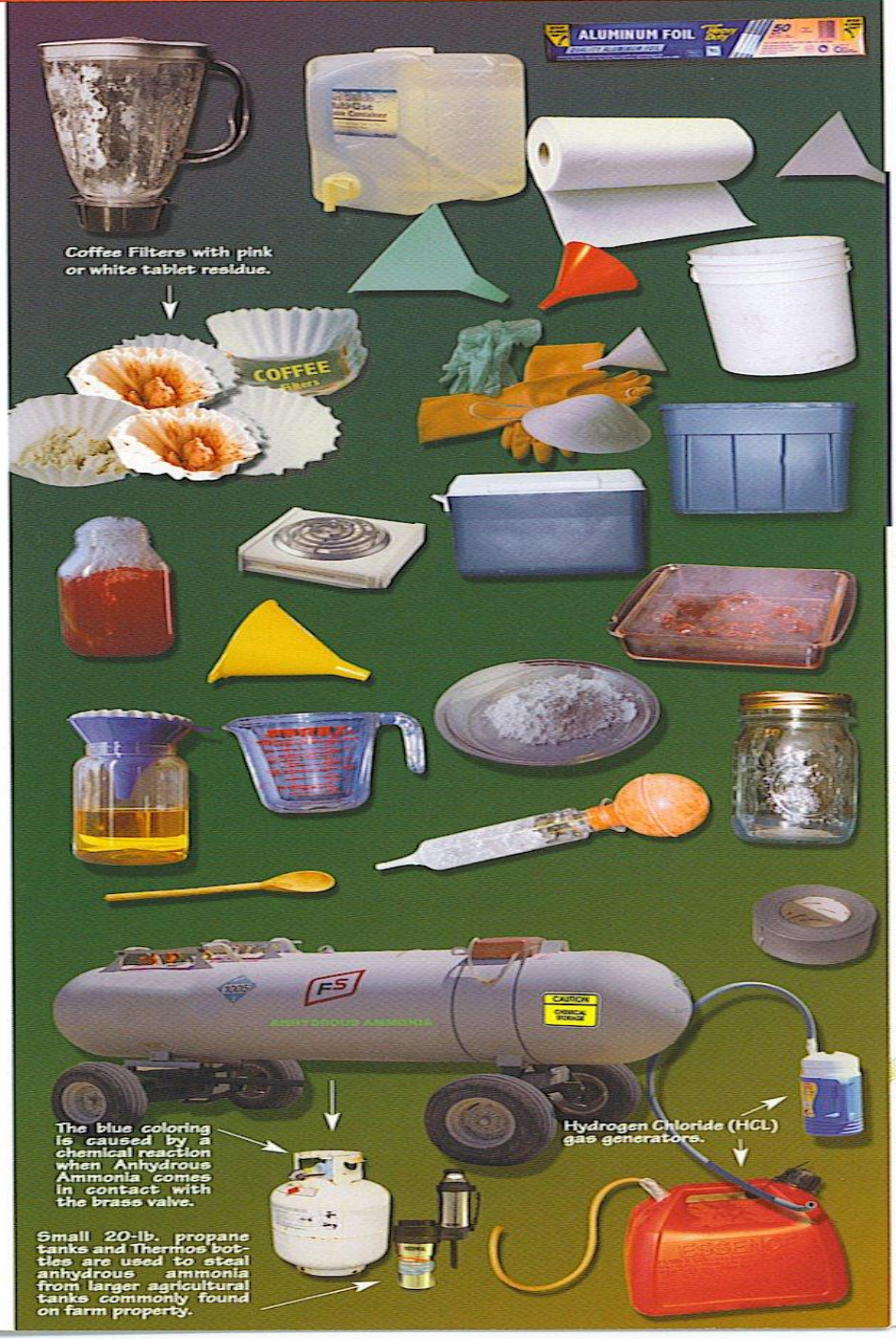
Strainer

Aluminum Foil

Propane Cylinder (20-lb)

Books "How To Make Methamphetamine"

Internet Documents/Notes



Methamphetamine Lab Dump

Household Chemicals:

Flammable and poisonous chemicals like Acetone, brake cleaner, camping fuel, Ether, gasoline additives, Iodine, mineral spirits, paint thinner, propane, red phosphorous, and various acids are commonly found.

Containers:

Unmarked jars or containers filled with dangerous toxic lab waste is always present at a dumpsite requiring professional Hazmat removal. Never open or smell an unknown chemical.

HCL Generator:

Clearly the most dangerous item found at a lab dump site is the Hydrogen Chloride (HCL) gas generator. This is an acid-gas conversion device containing Sulfuric or Muriatic Acid which will burn the skin severely if touched. Any plastic or metal containers with tubing attached should be avoided at all costs.

HCL Gas Generators

(Sulfuric Acid + Rock Salt = HCL)

- **Gas cans.**
- **Fire Extinguishers.**
- **Propane Tanks.**
- **Pressure Sprayers.**

Coffee filters:

Reddish-brown stained coffee filters are good indictors of a clandestine meth lab. Don't touch these filters. They are chemically contaminated and may cause skin or respiratory damage.

Cold Medicines:

Pseudoephedrine is the required ingredient needed to make meth, commonly found in over-the-counter cold medicines. Multiple packages or bottles are commonly found at a lab dump site.

A-5839NC (4/89)

[redacted]

PACIFIC BELL.

A Pacific Telesis Company

The Post Office will not deliver mail without

Formula -

Bronchiol - Dilator - ALERT

25 - grams - EPHIrina

[redacted]

BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT

CASE NUMBER: FR94-00332

EVIDENCE NUMBER: B-15

SUSPECT(S): RAMOS, JESUS

DATE: 6-21-94

AGENT(S): PENNAL

First Component: Red P

- Refers to red phosphorus
- Brownish-red powder
- Can burn or explode under the right conditions
- Extracted from matchbook striker plates or road flares

Red Phosphorus (“Red”)

Extraction of Red Phosphorus

Second Component: White

- Refers to ephedrine or pseudo ephedrine
- White or off-white powder (sometimes pink if extracted from cold pills)
- Mild stimulant, extracted from the ephedra plant
- May be extracted from cold pills or obtained as pure tablets

Ephedrine (“White”)

Extraction of Ephedrine

Third Component: Blue

- Refers to iodine crystals
- Blue-gray in appearance, almost like lead pellets
- May be obtained pure or extracted from disinfectant solution
- Used as a disinfectant in livestock operations
- Leaves distinctive, yellow-blue or brown stains on surfaces

Iodine (“Blue”)

Iodine Contamination

What Does a Lab Look Like?

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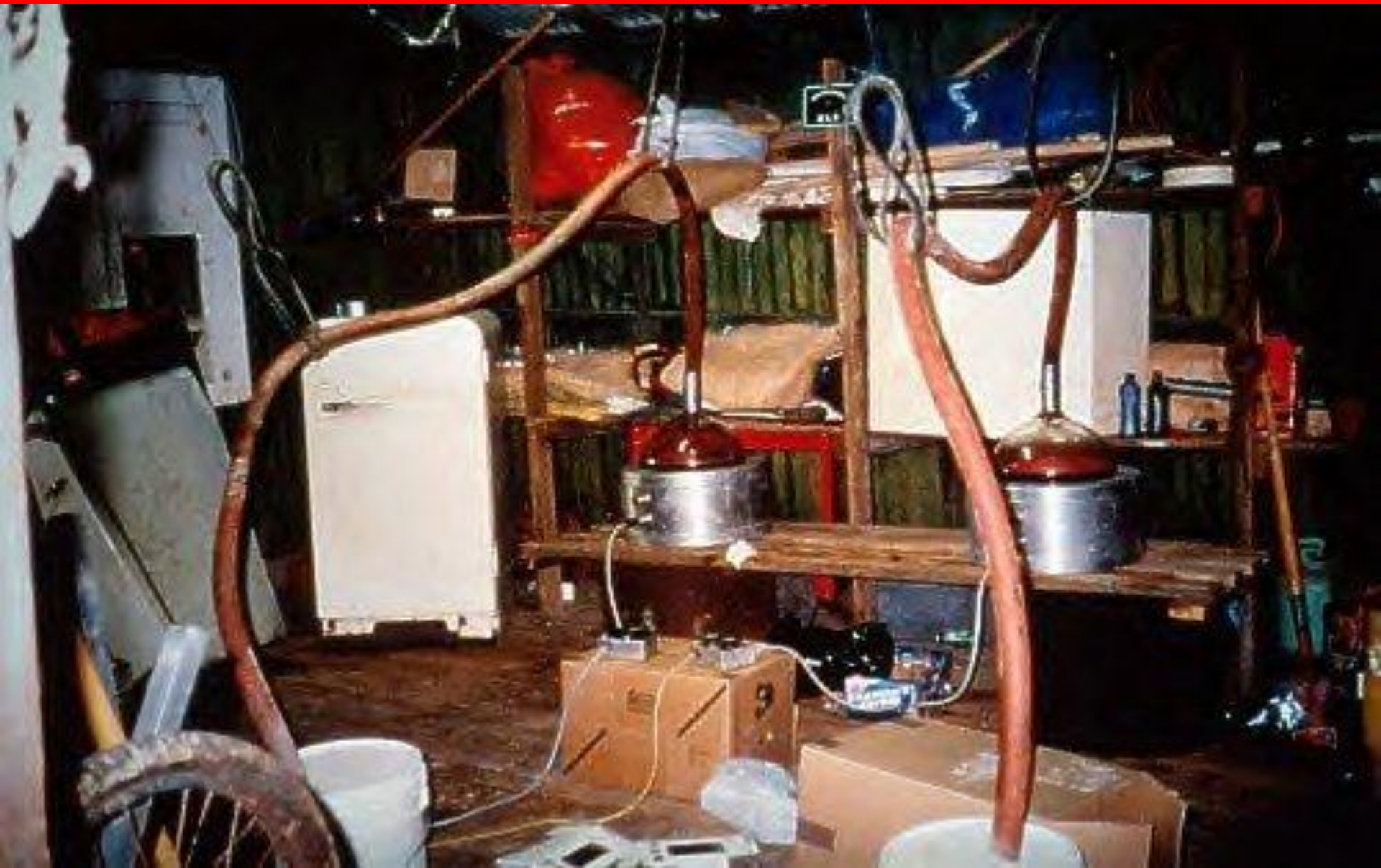


What Does a Lab Look Like?

What Does a Mobile Lab Look Like?

What Does a Mobile Lab Look Like?

Purification of Meth

- Sodium hydroxide (lye) added to reaction to change acidity
- Organic solvent (kerosene, ether) added to extract product
- Hydrochloric acid added to precipitate drug
- Drug is removed, purified with acetone, then dried

Corrosive Materials

Corrosive Materials

Finished Product

Other Ways to Cook Meth

"Nazi" or "Cold cook" method

- Uses ephedrine, Anhydrous ammonia, and sodium or lithium metal (from batteries)
- Fast, efficient
- Requires supplies of anhydrous ammonia.

"P-2-P" or "Biker" method

- Combines phenyl-2-propanone and methylamine
- Very slow, difficult
- Older, "obsolete" method
- May be used by some cooks

Public Health Concerns

- Houses with clandestine labs are often dirty, in poor condition
- Floors, walls, ceilings may be contaminated with chemical residues; contamination may be spread throughout the house by occupants
- Chemical wastes may be stored or dumped on the property

Unsanitary Conditions

Solid Waste Left on Premises

Basic Rules of Toxicology

- "Dose makes the poison"
- Long-term exposure to low doses may eventually produce same symptoms as short-term exposure to high doses
- The fact that something is toxic does not necessarily mean it is a hazard to health

Acute vs. Chronic exposure

- Acute: Exposure which occurs over a short time. High doses usually required to cause an effect
- Chronic: Exposure which occurs over the space of months to years, usually involves lower amounts of toxicant.

How Dangerous Are Meth Labs?

It all depends on:

- Who you are
- Where you are
- What you are doing
- When you are doing it
- How long you are doing it
- How much chemical is present

Hazard Depends on Situation

- Contamination in most former meth labs is restricted to low levels of meth residue
- Houses are not considered hazardous waste sites under EPA or State hazardous waste regulations
- “Cooking” meth in a house exposes a person to different hazards than occupying the house afterwards

Chemical Hazards of Production

- Toxic gases are produced that can cause death or injury (phosphine is the most deadly)
- Flammable chemicals are used in process
- Caustic chemicals such as hydrochloric and sulfuric acids are used for extraction
- Chemicals may condense on surfaces
- There are unknown hazards from meth by-products

Hazardous by-Products

- Produced during reaction, may occur with or without heating
- Major by-products are phosphine gas and hydriotic acid
- Other by-products may be present, depending on purity of reagents

Phosphine Gas

- Chemical formula: PH_3
- Toxicity: High
- Flammability: Extreme
- Reactivity: Very Low

- Primary route of toxicity is by inhalation
- Causes lung edema, asphyxia
- Heavier than air, collects in low places
- Waste gas vented into “death bags”

“Death Bag”

Potential for Exposure

- Phosphine is always a gas at room temperature
- Complete ventilation of house over period of several days will eliminate most residue
- Primarily a hazard for first responders
- Not considered to be a long-term hazard for occupants
- One sniff will kill.
- Can convert to yellow phosphorus & ignite spontaneously.

Iodine/Hydriotic Acid

- Chemical Formula: I_2/HI
- Toxicity: High
- Flammability: Very Low
- Reactivity: Moderate (oxidizer)

- Upper respiratory tract/mucous membrane irritant
- Corrosive, oxidizer
- Stains surfaces easily
- Volatile (crystals can emit vapors)
- Vapor can be fatal in very low concentrations
- Dissolves flesh in seconds

Potential for Exposure

- Contamination is often easily detected, due to distinctive smell and obvious stains on surfaces
- Stains can persist for years and “bleed through” paint, creating vapor
- Vapor can be removed by venting the house; inadequate ventilation can cause buildup to toxic levels
- Residue reacts with spray starch
- Stained items/surfaces may be discarded

Flammable Materials

- Organic solvents used for extraction of drug from reaction mixture
- Common solvents are methanol, ethanol, iso-propanol, acetone, kerosene, chloroform, ether
- Red phosphorus is a primary reagent of the reaction


Acetone
Special-purpose thinner, cleaner and remover. Evaporates quickly.
Acetona
Diluyente, limpiador y removedor. Se evapora rápidamente.
DANGER! EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED. VAPOR HARMFUL. EYE IRRITANT. Read other cautions on back panel.
ONE GALLON 3.785 LITERS
¡PELIGRO! EXTREMADAMENTE INFLAMABLE. NOCIVO SI SE INGIERE. VAPOR NOCIVO. IRRITANTE DE LOS OJOS. Lea las demás precauciones al dorso.
UN GALON 3.785 LITROS
Klean-Strip


NORTON


HEET
HEET
HEET

Red Phosphorus

- Chemical Formula: P
- Toxicity: Low (unless contaminated with yellow phosphorus)
- Flammability: Low
- Reactivity: Low
- Extracted from matchbook striker plates, road flares
- Primary reagent of meth production
- Will convert to yellow (white) phosphorus when heated

Potential for Exposure

- All organic solvents are volatile
- Most have a distinctive smell, odor threshold is usually well below toxic levels
- Most of the residue will evaporate after removing the source and ventilating the structure for several days (length of time depends on the outside temperature)

Corrosive Materials

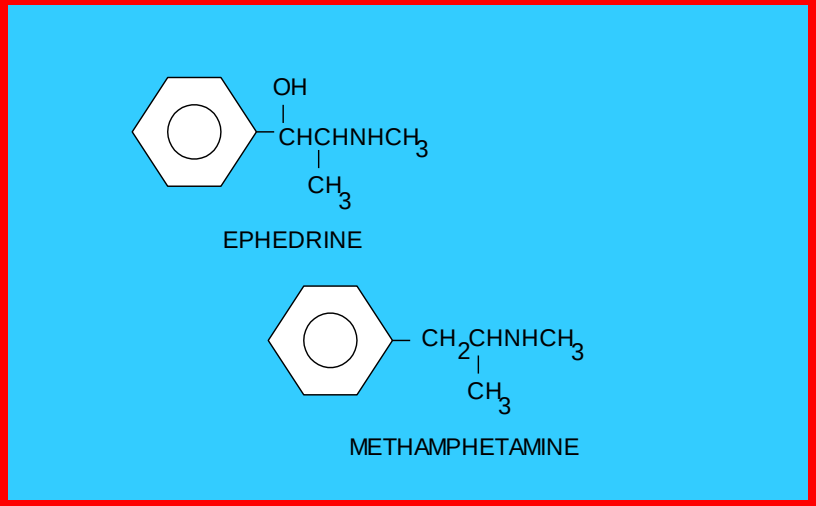
- Change pH of reaction mixture, which in turn changes solubility of methamphetamine
- Include sulfuric and hydrochloric acids and sodium hydroxide
- Used to precipitate drug from reaction mixture
- Can pose a significant contact hazard if residue is not removed or neutralized

Potential for Exposure

- Strong acids react immediately when spilled, little residue remains after reaction
- Sodium hydroxide powder can remain on surfaces after spills, cause contact burns
- Residues can be easily removed or neutralized by soap and water solution

Methamphetamine

- Toxicity: Moderate
- Flammability: Low
- Reactivity: Very Low



- Powerful CNS stimulant
- Highly addictive
- Usually smoked or injected
- “High” lasts longer than cocaine
- Prescribed for weight loss, ADD-type behaviors

Potential for Exposure

- Meth is not volatile at normal temperatures; does not evaporate
- Vapor/fumes form during production and smoking, can condense on walls, ceilings
- Dust forms while drying and processing product
- Reaction mixture may “boil over” and splash on walls, floors, ceiling
- Residue levels may be close to prescribed dosage, can remain for years afterward

Lab Setup and Glassware

Lessons Learned

- Meth and iodine vapor can migrate throughout a structure, and significantly contaminate surfaces in rooms not used for cooking
- High levels of meth residue may be present without obvious signs of contamination
- Iodine can “bleed” through paint months or years after initial contamination
- Proper decontamination of property can remove almost all chemical residues

Personnel Safety !!

- Get out. EMS / Transport if any effects.
- Do Not touch anything! Do Not turn anything on or off!
- Evacuate Area (upwind).
- Secure Area.
- Do Not touch or smell any containers/equipment to check/verify contents.
- Decontaminate if exposed or in doubt.
- Always wash hands and face.
- Call/Request LEA - DEA, SO, PD, Hazmat!!

DEA

Personnel Safety !!

- Meth users are extremely paranoid. They have been known to go up to 15 days without sleep.
- They are very dangerous, violent, aggressive, belligerent.
- If mixed with alcohol or other depressants, can intensify danger to self or others.
- Known to set traps, take hostages, engage in violent acts, utilize weapons without provocation.


70% Alcohol


KINGS
IN U.S.A.
WARNING
Ultimate


Drain Out
CRYSTAL
Drain Out
CRYSTAL
ORTON
SALT


REHYDRATE. REPLEN
REFUEL®
Gatorade
THIRST QUENCHER
24 FL OZ (1 1/2 PT) 710 mL