If you have reason to believe there is a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in your area, do not investigate! These laboratories are very hazardous. Contact local police authorities or the Missouri State Highway Patrol to report your concerns. Drug dealers and users can be very dangerous, especially those making and using methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine is just one of many illegal drugs causing problems in Missouri and across the nation. Patrol members regularly present programs on illegal drugs and how to combat their use, to students, civic groups, clubs, etc. If your group would like such a program, please contact the public information and education officer at the Missouri State Highway Patrol troop headquarters in your area.

For the Missouri State Highway Patrol headquarters nearest you, consult your local telephone directory.

Emergency Assistance

1-800-525-5555 or cellular *55

Road Conditions

1-888-275-6636

Sex Offender Registry

1-888-SOR-MSHP
(1-888-767-6747)

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METHAMPHETAMINE

Hazardous to Your Health and the Environment

What Is Meth?

Methamphetamine, known on the street as meth, crank, speed, ice, or crystal, is one of the nation's most dangerous and lethal illicit drugs. Missouri is one of the nation's leaders in methamphetamine production. It can be smoked, snorted, swallowed, or injected; is almost instantly addicting; and its use can result in violence, paranoia, and death. The high from methamphetamine is more intense and lasts much longer than most illicit drugs, but the fall afterward is also much harder and deeper, resulting in an instant craving for more meth. While methamphetamine is relatively inexpensive when compared to other street drugs, the intense addiction often leads users to a life of crime and violence to maintain their habit.

One of the attractions for methamphetamine pushers is that meth is a lucrative business. A small investment can reap huge profits. It can be made with a skillet and stove, in a motel bathroom, in a car's trunk with a plastic drinking cup, or simply with a soda bottle. This makes discovering clandestine methamphetamine laboratories difficult for law enforcement officers. The ingredients are obtained easily from your local pharmacy and hardware store. Meth normally contains ephedrine or pseudoephedrine found in cold and sinus medications. Depending on the recipe, other ingredients used in the making are the items with skull-and-crossbones labels: lye, battery parts, and various dangerous chemicals.

It's a highly volatile mix. Many meth cooks have severely burned themselves, or even died, from explosions and caustic fumes while making their deadly product. In order to safely dismantle these laboratories and process evidence, law enforcement personnel must undergo extensive training. These laboratories are treated as hazardous waste sites. If the toxic chemicals used in the laboratories are dumped into the soil or water, they become an environmental hazard as well.

Signs of methamphetamine addiction vary, but one might notice sudden bursts of energy followed by periods of deep depression, anxiety, paranoia, and exhaustion; rapid weight loss; pale skin; poor personal hygiene; and possibly track marks. Signs of a possible clandestine laboratory include a strong smell of ammonia or ether, an unusually large amount of traffic at a location, and extraordinary means of ventilation for a location (such as air conditioning units and window fans being used even in cool weather).

"The Meth List"

Presence of the following items could indicate the existence of a meth lab:

Alcohol,
Ether,
Benzene,
Toluene/Paint Thinner,
Freon,
Acetone,
Chloroform,
Camp Stove Fuel/Coleman Fuel,
Starting Fluid,
Anhydrous Ammonia,
"Heet,"
White Gasoline,
Phenyl-2-Propane,
Phenylacetone,
Iodine Crystals,
Red Phosphorous,
Iodine Tincture,
Lye (Red Devil Lye),
Drano,
Muriatic/Hydrochloric Acid,
Battery Acid/Sulfuric Acid,
Lithium Batteries,
Sodium Metal,
Match Books,
Propane Cylinders,
Hot Plates,
Cold medications containing
ephedrine or
pseudoephedrine,
Table, Rock, Epsom, or Pickling Salt,
Hydrogen Peroxide,
Aluminum Foil,
Cold Packs,
Tree spikes,
or other nitrogen fertilizers.