Methamphetamine and Meth Labs

Information, Identification Tips, and What to Do If You Think You Have Discovered a Meth Lab, Dealer, or User
Warning!

IF YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAY BE USING, DEALING, OR MANUFACTURING METHAMPHETAMINES DO NOT CONFRONT YOUR NEIGHBOR OR ENTER THE SUSPECTED LAB!

CONTACT THE GOLDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

303-384-8045
What is Meth?

- Methamphetamine (Meth) is a very potent central nervous system stimulant.
- The drug works directly on the brain and spinal cord by interfering with normal neurotransmission.
- The main neurotransmitter affected by methamphetamine is dopamine.
- Methamphetamine may be inhaled, smoked, or injected.
What Does Meth Look Like?
What Does Meth Do to the Drug User?

- Increased energy, feelings of euphoria, decreased appetite, and decreased need for sleep.
- Increased heart rate, blood pressure, sweating, restlessness, and anxiety.
Long Term Effects

• Physical Effects
  – Brain Damage
  – Kidney And Lung Disorders
  – Liver Damage
  – Death

• Psychological Effects
  – Severe Depression
  – Paranoid Psychosis
Long Term Effects

Meth Effects

1998

2002

Golden Police Department
Chief William Kilpatrick
Other Effects of Meth

• Increased Violence
• Increased risk of contracting STD’s
Other Effects of Meth

• Increased Violence
  – Methamphetamine use increases the user’s propensity to violence.
  – Police in Contra Costa County, California report that nearly 90% of the domestic violence calls they investigate are methamphetamine related.
  – There is also violence between drug producers, dealers, and distributors.
Increased Risk of Contracting STD’s

- The drug increases the user’s propensity to engage in risk-taking acts including sexual promiscuity.
- Needles, used to take the drug intravenously, can transmit STD’s and other diseases.
Methamphetamine Labs

- The manufacture of methamphetamines is done in meth labs.
- Meth labs can be set up anywhere including houses, mobile homes, sheds, office buildings, etc.
- Meth manufacturing is extremely dangerous and uses many common chemical products.
- Many of the chemicals used in making meth are very toxic and volatile. Exposure to these chemicals can cause great bodily harm.
Meth Lab Chemicals

• When mixed, the chemicals used in the manufacturing process can damage the central nervous system, liver and kidneys and burn or irritate the skin, eyes, nose and throat.

• The chemicals and fumes that permeate the walls, carpets, plaster and wood in meth labs, as well as the surrounding soil, are known to cause cancer, short-term and permanent brain damage, and immune and respiratory system problems.
Risk of Fire and Injury

- Meth labs also are a great risk of explosion and fire which can result in serious injury and death.
The Chemicals Used

– Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine Cold Tablets –
  - Red Phosphorus (Match Heads) – Methanol (Heet) – Rubbing Alcohol –
  – Lithium (Batteries) – Veterinarian Products – Iodine Crystals – Sulfuric Acid (Drano) –
  – Solvents (Camp Stove Fuel, Acetone, etc) – Kitty Litter – Salt –
  – Sodium Hydroxide (Lye) – Toluene (Break Cleaner) – Ether (Starting Fluid) –
  – Trichloroethane (Gun Scrubber) – MSM (A Cutting Agent) –
The Equipment Used

- Pyrex or Corning Dishes –
- Jugs/Bottles – Paper Towels –
- Coffee Filters – Thermometer –
  - Cheesecloth – Funnels –
- Blenders – Rubber Tubing/Gloves –
  - Pails/Buckets – Gas Cans –
- Tape/Clamps – Internet Docs –
  - Strainers – Aluminum Foil –
- Propane Cylinders – Hotplates –
  - “How to Make Meth” Books –
- Plastic Containers/Ice Chests –
  - Measuring Cups –
    - Towels/Bed Sheets –
  - Laboratory Beakers/Glassware –
Environmental Damage

For every pound of methamphetamine produced there is, on average, six pounds of toxic waste and materials that remain.
Activities That May Indicate A Meth Lab

• Frequent visitors at all times of the day or night.
• Activity at the house is usually at odd hours or late at night.
• Occupants appear unemployed, yet seem to have plenty of money and pay bills with cash.
• Occupants are unfriendly and/or appear secretive about activities.
• Occupants watch cars suspiciously when they pass by.
• Occupants display a paranoid or odd behavior.
• Extensive security at the home or signs that indicate "Private Property" or "Beware of Dog", fences, large shrubs, bushes and trees.
• Windows blackened or curtains always drawn.
Activities That May Indicate A Meth Lab

- Occupants go outside the house to smoke cigarettes.
- Chemical odors coming from the house, garbage or detached buildings.
- Garbage contains numerous bottles, containers, and materials such as those displayed on the previous slides.
- Coffee filters, bed sheets or other material stained from filtering red phosphorus or other chemicals.
- Occupant sets his/her garbage for pick up in another neighbor's collection area.
- Evidence of chemical or waste dumping (i.e. burn pits, or "dead spots" in the yard.)
- What have others in your neighborhood observed?
A Combination…

• Any single activity may or may not be sole proof that drug dealing or methamphetamine manufacturing is occurring.

• However, a combination of the described activities may be cause for concern.
Again…

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Information Sources

• Information and text for this presentation taken from the following sources:

  – “Methamphetamine: What is it and why is it dangerous?”
    http://www.cornerstonebh.com/meth1.htm

  – “How To Recognize the Signs of a Meth Lab”
    http://www.cityofsalem.net/~police/Meth%20Lab%20Signs.htm

  – Some images taken from various websites utilizing image search engines.