

CENWP-OP-R

July 7, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rogue River Basin Project Employees

SUBJECT: Methamphetamine (METH) Lab Awareness

1. Recent training provided by Ken Duncan, Project Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC), and the Jackson County Narcotic Enforcement Team (JACNET) indicated that the incidence of methamphetamine production is increasing. It is possible that during our daily duties, some of us may encounter materials and products used for the illegal manufacturing of this substance.
2. Every possible situation or scenario for a potential encounter with these materials or products cannot be described, or appropriate actions outlined. However, based on some common signs usually found at these sites, and using cautious judgement, a general recommended action plan can be established.
3. In each case, employees should treat all suspected METH lab areas as potentially hazardous.
4. Common signs that may indicate that the area has been used as a METH lab are: chemical containers such as acetone, paint thinners, lyes, acids, cold tablet packages, red phosphorus, match books and wooden matches. Equipment such as jugs, Pyrex or Corning cookware, bottles, funnels, coffee filters, rubber tubing, ice chests, and propane cylinders are also commonly found in an area used for methamphetamine production.
5. A single ice chest or propane tank found discarded does not necessarily indicate the presence of a former METH lab, however, caution should be used when investigating these items. During our recent training, JACNET officers stated that most METH lab areas have a variety of discarded items strewn about the area.
6. Due to the potential frequency of finding discarded ice chests or portable propane tanks, the following general recommendations are provided:
 - Investigate the surrounding area for signs of a METH lab.
 - Notify supervisor. JACNET officers may be contacted at 541-776-7190 if a suspected METH lab is found or if you have questions regarding METH labs.
 - Use binoculars, if necessary, to observe whether there is any blue coloring or other corrosion around the brass valve of a propane tank (indicates a chemical reaction from chemicals used in methamphetamine production).
 - Use a PH strip attached to a long pole to take a PH reading from the propane tank.
 - Open ice chest with a long pole if possible and stand upwind to avoid breathing contents.
 - If METH is suspected, secure immediate area with caution tape if located in an area that the public would normally visit.
 - Notify Ken Duncan, Project ECC at 541-937-2131 (work), 541-912-0854 (mobile).