

ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
* PROCEDURAL ORDERS*

Effective: 06/27/2007; Replaces: 9/26/2005
07-PRO8

2-36 **CLANDESTINE DRUG LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS**

POLICY:

Department policy is to investigate, dismantle and render safe clandestine drug laboratories with due consideration given to the safety of personnel and the community.

2-36-1 DEFINITIONS:

- A. Clandestine Lab - a location where there are sufficient chemicals and/or equipment to manufacture a controlled substance or demonstrate the intent to manufacture a controlled substance. Also known as a clan lab, meth lab, drug lab or lab.
- B. Major Clandestine Lab – A methamphetamine lab that has the capability to produce approximately two (2) to nine (9) pounds of methamphetamine.
- C. Super Clandestine Lab – A methamphetamine lab that has the capability to produce approximately ten (10) pounds or more of methamphetamine.
- D. Anhydrous Ammonia – A principal reagent used in the Birch reduction method of methamphetamine reduction.
- E. Dump site - a location where waste, chemicals, equipment and/or other paraphernalia associated with a clandestine lab have been discarded.
- F. Certified Clan Lab Investigator - a person who has successfully completed an OSHA approved training course. This person will be authorized to enter, evaluate and dismantle a clandestine lab. Only certified clandestine lab investigators and certified clan lab chemists will be allowed to enter and dismantle a clandestine lab.
- G. Certified Clan Lab Chemist - a formally trained Department forensic scientist who has successfully completed an OSHA-approved training course.
- H. Site Safety Officer/Supervisor - a person who has completed an OSHA-approved site safety officer/supervisor course (8 hours). The site safety officer will be the supervisor of the clandestine lab regardless of rank. The site safety officers will be comprised of certified clan lab investigators.
- I. Case agent - the detective who is responsible for investigating and presenting the criminal case for prosecution. The case agent will be a certified clan lab investigator.

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- J. Clan lab team - A team consisting of a sufficient number of certified clandestine lab investigators to safely process and dismantle the clandestine lab. The team will be a minimum of four people, which will include a site safety officer and **three additional certified clan lab investigators**.
- K. Initial Assessment Team - A team consisting of at least **three** certified clan lab investigators who are responsible for evaluating the lab, assessing the potential hazards, determining the level of protective equipment to be utilized, and establishing the investigative protocol for the lab.
- L. Chemical Exposure - a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, intact or non intact skin contact with a potentially hazardous chemical or inhalation of the hazardous chemical resulting in the likelihood of an adverse reaction to the hazardous chemical.
- M. Level C – will consist of the following required protective equipment to be utilized:
- Air purifying respirator (APR)
 - One or two piece chemical resistant suit (Tyvek), hood optional
 - Inner gloves, chemical resistant
 - Outer gloves, chemical resistant
 - Boots, chemical resistant with steel toe and shank
 - Undersuit, long sleeve, full leg
 - Booties, chemical resistant, disposable (optional)
 - Hard hat (optional)
 - Two way radio communication (optional)
- N. Level B – will consist of the following required protective equipment to be utilized:
- Positive pressure self contained breathing apparatus
 - One or two piece chemical resistant suit (Tyvek), hood optional
 - Inner gloves, chemical resistant
 - Outer gloves, chemical resistant
 - Boots, chemical resistant with steel toe and shank
 - Undersuit, long sleeve, full leg
 - Booties, chemical resistant, disposable (optional)
 - Hard hat (optional)
 - Two way radio communication (optional)

RULES:

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2-36-2 NOTIFYING PERSONNEL AND SECURING THE SCENE

- A. When an officer locates or suspects they have located a clandestine lab the officer will:
1. Secure the location and set up a perimeter at a safe location
 2. Evacuate people to a safe distance
 3. Notify their immediate supervisor, who will be responsible for notifying the on-call narcotics detective
 4. Obtain information and identification from suspects and witnesses
- B. Upon arrival of a narcotics detective, the detective will assume control of the investigation and scene and will determine if the on-call clan lab team will be called out.

2-36-3 IDENTIFYING, PROCESSING AND DISMANTLING A CLANDESTINE LAB

- A. An initial assessment team will be established to evaluate the lab, assess the potential hazards, determine the level of protective equipment to be utilized, and establish the investigative protocol for the lab.
1. The team will be responsible for conducting a preliminary evaluation, identifying the hazardous conditions before the processing of the lab begins and reducing the potentially hazardous conditions.
 2. The initial assessment team will consist of **three** certified clan lab investigators.
- B. The initial assessment team will utilize a minimum of Level C protective equipment to assess a clandestine lab that is contained within a dwelling or structure.
- C. If there are indicators that the clandestine lab is “actively cooking,” the minimum level of protective gear to be utilized will be Level B. **If deemed necessary by the case agent or the site safety officer, an APD chemist may be called out to all verified “cooking” labs, and may be telephonically consulted or called out to all other clandestine lab situations as well.**
- D. The final responsibility for determining the requisite or minimum level of protective equipment to be utilized for processing the lab will rest with the **site safety officer.**
- E. Processing of the lab will be done only by certified clan lab investigators and/or **chemists if present.**

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- F. The clan lab team will process and dismantle the clandestine lab. The team will remove the lab to a safe secure location for evaluation and collection by a certified disposal company.
- G. Whenever two people are inside a clandestine lab, there will be two people standing by as rescue personnel who will be ready at Level **B** of protection as the personnel inside.
- H. The lab will be photographed with overall photographs, showing items in location and final overall photographs.
- I. The case agent and the **site safety officer** will confer to determine which items will be sampled.
1. The samples will be photographed with their respective containers.
 2. The samples will be marked with the date, case number, sample number, ph level and initials of person taking sample. Each sample will be tagged separately in double heat sealed bags. The bags will be sealed on all four sides.
- J. Sampling will be done in a minimum of Level C protective equipment by a certified clan lab investigator or **a certified clan lab chemist if present.**
- The samples will be turned over to the case agent for tagging into evidence.
- K. Bulk chemicals, contaminated glassware, or other possibly hazardous material will not be accepted as evidence in Department facilities except for those items approved by **a certified clan lab chemist.**
- L. A field investigator or field evidence technician will be utilized if the case agent requests items to be fingerprinted.
1. The items will be placed in an isolated, ventilated area.
 2. The **site safety officer** will be responsible for determining and advising the FI or FET which items are not hazardous and are suitable for fingerprint processing.
- M. Sworn personnel will remain on scene with the disposal company until they have completed the disposal and left the location.

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- A. Notify the Criminal Nuisance Abatement Team on all clan lab investigations.
- B. Secure the location or turn it over to an authorized person.
- C. Obtain a search warrant, permission to search or other legal means for entry of the meth lab.
 - The case agent will include in the affidavit for the search warrant a clause that documents the necessity to properly dispose of the hazardous and/or contaminated materials.
- D. Conduct the criminal investigation.
- E. Contact a DEA representative to dispatch a certified disposal company.
 - 1. A certified disposal company will properly dispose of contaminated equipment and other items from the clan lab.
 - 2. Only DEA contracted or approved disposal companies will be utilized
- F. Post a DEA warning sticker in a visible location on the premises.

2-36-5 ENTRY OF A CLANDESTINE LABORATORY

- A. Officers should not enter a known “actively cooking” clandestine lab without appropriate protective equipment (Level B).
- B. The SWAT Team will be utilized for entry on all executions of search warrants involving occupied or suspected occupied clandestine labs or any time that a lab is believed to be “actively cooking.”

2-36-6 CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

- A. If personnel are subjected to a chemical exposure at a clandestine lab and have any adverse feelings associated with the exposure, they will report the exposure to the site safety officer and their immediate supervisor.
- B. The supervisor **on scene or the site safety officer** will be responsible for ensuring the exposed person(s) obtain medical attention in compliance with Department SOP, Administrative Orders 3-72-3.
- C. The supervisor will ensure that the chemical exposure is thoroughly documented in the original or supplemental report.

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- D. The **site safety officer** will be responsible for assessing the risks associated with the exposure and the potential need for emergency medical treatment.

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CHILDREN PRESENT AT CLANDESTINE LABS

If children or persons unable to care for themselves are present, the following steps will be implemented:

- A. The responding officer will request emergency medical services to ensure the child's or vulnerable adult's welfare.
- B. The case agent will be responsible for notifying CYFD or Adult Protective Services to assist in removing the child or vulnerable adult from the environment.
- C. The case agent will be responsible for collecting appropriate documentation, evidence and witness interviews to substantiate child abuse charges.
- D. Replacement clothing provided by a local vendor will be provided for the child and turned over to CYFD personnel.

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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. An Original Report will be generated on all clan labs.
- B. All assisting personnel will complete a supplementary report detailing their observations and activity.
- The supplementary report will be given to the case agent before leaving the scene.
- C. The case agent will complete the investigation and forward it to the District Attorney's Office for review and consideration for prosecution.
- D. The case agent's supervisor will be responsible for ensuring the completion of the EPIC National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure Report.