

A typical meth lab is a collection of chemical bottles, hoses and pressurized cylinders. The cylinders can take many forms, from modified propane tanks to fire extinguishers, scuba tanks and soda dispensers. The tanks contain anhydrous ammonia or hydrochloric acid - both highly poisonous and corrosive.



People who enter a lab during or immediately after a drug raid may experience shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, dizziness, lack of coordination, burns and even death.

Health Risks

Meth can cause long-term health effects including cancer, brain damage, birth defects and miscarriages. It also can cause memory loss, heart problems, aggression and violence.

Meth causes health problems not just for the users, but also for others who are unintentionally exposed to the chemical.

People who enter a drug lab after a police raid has been completed, but before it has been properly cleaned and ventilated, may feel headaches, nausea, dizziness and fatigue.



Who to Call

To report a
suspected drug lab:

78CRIME

Or

479-709-5103

Fort Smith Police Dept.

Is There a Meth Lab In My Neighborhood?

*Learn the signs of an illegal
methamphetamine
operation*

What is Meth?

Methamphetamine (Meth) is a powerful highly toxic, addictive drug that is illegally "cooked" in make-shift labs.

Meth can be found in the form of pills, capsules, powder, or chunks; it can be smoked, snorted, injected, or eaten.

Meth was developed from amphetamine, but has much stronger effects on the central nervous system.

Meth is also called crank, speed, crystal, go fast, or ice.

Warning signs of living near a lab.

- Strong odor of solvents
- Residences with windows blacked out
- Iodine- or chemical stained bathroom or kitchen fixtures
- Renters who pay landlords in cash
- Increased activity, especially at night
- Excessive trash

Common Meth Lab Supplies

Plastic tubing
Mason jars
Propane tanks (*sometimes spray-painted or burned, with bent or tampered valves*)
Camp stove fuel
Empty pill bottles
Empty cans of toluene
Ammonia
Starter fluid
Glass containers
Coffee filters with red stains
Funnels
Rock salt
Iodine
Lithium batteries
Hydrogen peroxide
Ephedrine or pseudoephedrine tablets
Paint thinner
Alcohol

A typical meth lab contains a variety of glassware, a power source, tubing, containers of chemicals and pills, and pressurized tanks or containers. The most common chemicals used to start the meth-making process are over-the-counter cold and asthma medications. Typical brands include Sudafed, Revive, and Mini-thins, which contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as decongestants or stimulants.



An explosion in a meth lab caused the fire that destroyed this home in Fort Smith.

If you suspect a Meth Lab

Do not enter a site that you think may be used for cooking meth. Labs present extreme dangers from explosions and exposure to hazardous chemicals. Breathing the fumes, and handling substances, can cause injury and even death.

Drug labs are considered hazardous waste sites and should only be entered by trained and equipped professionals.

Never handle materials you suspect were used for making meth, such as contaminated glassware and needles. Skin contact can result in burns or poisoning. Handling items can also cause some of the chemicals to explode on contact with water.

How to recognize a Meth Lab

Meth labs may be set up at campgrounds, rest areas, rental homes, motel/hotel rooms, abandoned cars, garages, storage sheds, barns, and vacant buildings.

Labs are frequently abandoned, and the potentially explosive and very toxic chemicals are left behind. Chemicals may also be burned or dumped along roads.