

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.637	Effective Date:	7/1/2012
Title:	Clandestine Drug Labs (Meth Labs)	# of pages:	3
Category:	Hazardous Materials Response	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) defines and describes how the South Portland Fire Department (SPFD) will respond a report of an Meth Lab.
2. **PROCEDURES:** It is important to remember that every year in the United States First Responders are exposed and injured in Clandestine Drug Lab settings.

DISPATCH AND RESPONSE PHASE

- Nature of the call and location are important. When responding get all the dispatch information available via text page, cell phone or MDB. **DO NOT** discuss over radio if possible.
- Does any a current operation or intelligence identify the location as a confirmed or possible clandestine drug lab?

ROUTINE OPERATIONS

- If you discover a lab during routine operations **GET OUT!**
- Do not touch, move or handle anything.
- If you, another responder, or civilians have become contaminated, immediately begin decontamination.
- **Responders should be very cautious of any materials or locations that arouse your curiosity.**

ARRIVAL ON SCENE

- If responding to a suspected or confirmed lab slow down when approaching the incident and conduct a 360-degree scan during your “windshield survey” of the scene.
- Look for objects and people that seem out of place for the location or time of the call - if it looks suspicious it probably is.
- Use Staging Area to limit number of responders initially.
- Establish an outer perimeter and remember it is also a crime scene.

APPROACHING THE AREA

- Utilize Incident Command System (ICS) and only the necessary components for that response. Unified Command, Safety Officer, etc.
- Establish Limited Access Zones around the suspected lab (Hot, Warm, and Cold). Limit the number of responders entering the Hot Zone.
- **Use caution when dealing with meth cooks or meth users.**
- **Be aware of the possibility of booby traps or explosive materials.**

RESPONDERS SHOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY ITEMS OR LOCATIONS THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY!

Clandestine Drug Labs can be discovered during an emergency response or will most likely be discovered when conducting routine response activities. Drug Labs been discovered in different locations such as houses, attics, basements, apartments, storage units, barns, vehicles, campsites, confined spaces and other locations.

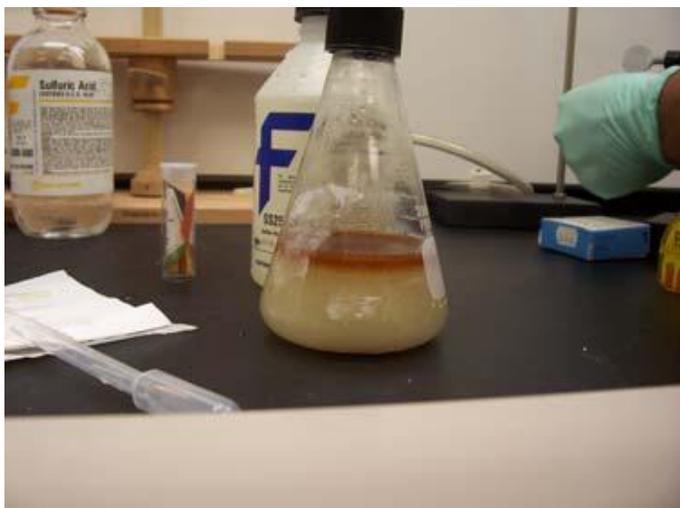
IDENTIFICATION

- **Responders should be very cautious of any materials or locations that arouse your curiosity.**
- Be aware of unusual structures or equipment.
- Accumulations of waste inside or outside.
- Attempted fortification or camouflaging of a location.
- Strong or unusual chemical odors inside or outside.
- Unusual or erratic behavior of individuals at location or in vicinity.
- Large amounts of Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine.
- Plastic or glass containers containing multi-layered liquids (photo below).
- Heating units such hot plates, frying pans or pressure cookers.
- Laboratory type equipment, funnels, vessels or glassware (photo below).
- Compressed gas cylinders with unusual discoloration or attachments.
- Large or unusual amounts of household chemicals or materials.
- **ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED ITEMS!**

EXIT STRATEGY

- If there are several strong indicators that you have a clandestine drug lab- leave the area and withdraw your personnel to an area outside the Warm Zone.
- Call for Clandestine Drug Lab Teams and/or law enforcement assistance.

RESPONDERS SHOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY ITEMS OR LOCATIONS THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY!



3. REFERENCES:

- August Vernon, fdtac@yahoo.com First Responder Awareness Card-Version 2, March 2008

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief