



KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTION**

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SUBJECT

Clandestine Laboratory Operations

AMENDS

REFERENCE

PI: Explosive Device Calls; DRAGNET Reports

RESCINDS

PI 06-2, Clandestine Laboratory Operations

## I. INTRODUCTION

This procedural instruction establishes guidelines and procedures for when a department member encounters a clandestine laboratory (lab). It is impossible to set forth exact procedures for every situation, therefore; members must use their best judgment based on training, experience, and knowledge of department policies and procedures.

## II. TERMINOLOGY

- \*A. **Clandestine Laboratory** – An illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that has been, is, or could be used in the manufacturing (cooking/growing), cultivation, or synthesis of controlled substances.
- B. **Exposure or Exposed** – Ingestion, inhalation, absorption through the skin, eyes, or mucous membranes, or other contact with a hazardous substance.
- C. **Hazardous Chemical** – Any chemical which is a physical hazard and/or health hazard.
- D. **Hazardous Substance** – Any biological agent or other disease-causing agent which, after release into the environment and upon exposure, directly or indirectly, will or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunction or physical injuries and/or deformities in such persons or their offspring.
- \*E. **Site Safety Officer** – A trained individual, assigned to a hazardous material or substance site, responsible for implementing the site safety and health plan and verifying compliance with applicable safety and health requirements. The Metro Meth Section Supervisor will be responsible for designating this person.

## III. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. The department is committed to members' safety in the performance of their duties. Maximum effort will be made to provide members with information on clandestine laboratories and precautions to take when a lab is discovered.
- \*B. Clandestine laboratories will be considered high risk, hazardous waste material sites until declared sufficiently safe for investigative actions by

Metro Meth Section personnel or a Regional Criminalistics Division Laboratory Chemist.

- \*C. The Communications Unit Supervisor should be called anytime a clandestine laboratory is suspected. The Communications Unit Supervisor will contact the Metro Meth Section. Metro Meth Section member(s) responding will be responsible for processing the clandestine laboratory.
- \*D. The Metro Meth Section should be called anytime (24 hours a day) a department member receives third party information on the location of a clandestine laboratory. (Refer to Annex A, Section F, 3 for further instructions.)
- E. A Clandestine Laboratory Exposure Report, Form 258 P.D., will be completed for all members who are required to make entry or any other member who is at the scene and has been exposed to a hazardous chemical or substance.

#### **IV. TABLE OF ANNEXES**

This directive has been arranged in annexes to provide an easy reference.

**ANNEX A** - Clandestine Laboratory Operations Procedures

**ANNEX B** - Contamination and Decontamination

**ANNEX C** - Chemical Recovery

**ANNEX D** - Concealed Traps

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Chief of Police

Adopted by the Board of Police Commissioners this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2011.

Patrick A. McInerney

Board President

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**CLANDESTINE LABORATORY OPERATIONS PROCEDURES****\*A. Encountering a Clandestine Laboratory – Initial Safety Actions**

Chemicals associated with clandestine laboratories pose a major health and environmental risk to exposed persons. Initial actions at the scene may preserve individual safety and protect other persons and the environment. Critical safety actions include requesting help, warning others, isolating the area, and providing important response information. The following initial safety actions are separate from the steps taken to apprehend suspects or secure and preserve evidence.

1. Do not enter or re-enter the site after initial discovery. Evacuate at the first sign of potential danger or exposure.
  2. Follow the procedures outlined in the current written directive entitled, "Explosive Device Calls," and discontinue use of, and turn off, all electronic equipment within 100 yards of the lab site (this includes the police radio, cellular telephone(s), pager, MDT, etc.).
  3. Do not enter spill areas.
  4. Do not rescue someone unless personal safety can be maintained.
  5. Request a supervisor to respond.
  6. Secure the area.
    - a. Establish a controlled entry/exit location and begin a Crime Scene Log, Form 227 P.D.
    - b. Prevent unauthorized scene entry. The scene should be limited to personnel from the Metro Meth Section, Crime Laboratory, or persons rendering emergency aid/services.
    - c. Isolate/protect surrounding areas, as appropriate, using barrier tape. Members should be aware that some hazardous chemical vapors are heavier than air and may drift downwind from the lab site. A larger taped-off area can be condensed if needed; too small of a taped-off area may be insufficient and unable to expand.
  7. Observe from a distance.
  8. Observe with your eyes, not your hands. Avoid contact with anything at the scene.
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9. Avoid areas with odors, discoloration, visibility impairment, etc. Stay upwind/upgrade and at a recommended safe distance of at

least 100 yards (as outlined in the current written directive entitled, "Explosive Device Calls").

10. Treat the area as you would any other crime scene.

11. Always request assistance.

\*B. Suspected Clandestine Laboratory - Call for Service/Residence Check

1. If a member handling a call for service or conducting a residence check suspects that the location is a clandestine laboratory site upon arrival at the location, the member will:

a. Be attentive to items in plain view. This may be the only information available about the scene until trained personnel can assess the situation.

b. Check for the following exterior indicators of an internal clandestine laboratory:

(1) Moderate to strong chemical odor in and/or around the residence or vehicle

(2) Covered windows on the residence or outbuildings

(3) Unusual pipes or vents coming out of the residence

(4) Occupants smoking outside the residence

(5) Refusal of delivered services (e.g., hotel or motel housekeeping, postal service)

c. Be attentive to the actions of individuals under the influence of methamphetamine. Certain individuals may show signs of:

(1) Excitability, talkativeness

(2) Headache

(3) Dilated pupils

(4) Redness of skin

(5) Abdominal cramps

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(6) Severe mood swings

(7) Fever, rapid heart beat

- (8) Hostility
  - (9) Extreme paranoia
  - (10) Tremors
  - (11) Erratic or irrational comments or ideas
  - (12) Runny or bloody nose
- d. Ensure that no one enters the premises when a clandestine laboratory or a hazardous scene has been discovered. Be aware that toxic chemicals are not easily detected.
2. If a member believes or suspects that a location is a clandestine laboratory site after entering the residence/structure, the member should watch for concealed traps (for further information, see Annex D of this directive) and follow these general safety guidelines:
- a. Do not attempt to dismantle the lab or stop the “cook.”
  - b. Immediately remove self, any occupants, and other persons deemed to be in possible immediate danger, to a “safe area” away from the lab (at least 100 yards).
  - c. Do not turn electricity/light switches on or off.
  - d. Do not touch anything. Be aware that walking in the residence may contaminate the soles of your shoes.
  - e. Do not turn off any water supplies.
  - f. Detain occupants and/or witnesses. Do not place persons who were in contact with the lab site into department vehicles due to the possibility of chemical cross contamination.
  - g. Do not eat or drink in or near the lab site.
  - h. Do not smoke or ignite any flammable materials.
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- i. Do not put any objects into your mouth. Objects such as pens, pencils, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, gum, candy, etc., should be thrown away, not taken into the site, and/or sanitized.
  - j. Request a supervisor to respond.

\*C. Suspected Clandestine Laboratory – Traffic Stop/Car Check

When a member conducts a traffic stop or car check and a clandestine laboratory, lab equipment, illicit chemicals, or hazardous materials are observed in the vehicle, the member will:

1. Remove self and occupants away from the vehicle and detain the occupants.
2. Not move the vehicle from its current location, tow, or touch anything inside the vehicle.
3. Divert traffic around the vehicle until an on-site assessment can be conducted by the Metro Meth Section. It is not necessary to block off intersections.
4. Be aware of sharp objects such as needles, razorblades, etc., and possible lab items when searching occupants from the vehicle.
5. Request a supervisor to respond.

D. The responding supervisor will evaluate the situation. If a clandestine laboratory is present, the supervisor will:

1. Notify the dispatcher of the situation.
2. Request that the dispatcher notify the Metro Meth Section to respond.
3. Request that additional officers be dispatched to assist in establishing a safe perimeter and securing the premises.
- \*4. Establish a controlled entry/exit location at the scene and ensure that a Crime Scene Log, Form 227 P.D. is initiated and maintained.

E. Upon arrival at the scene, a Metro Meth Section supervisor and/or detective will have overall authority and responsibility for the scene. Other responsibilities will include:

1. Requesting responses from the Regional Criminalistics Laboratory Crime Scene Section or Drug Enforcement Administration.

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2. Requesting the Fire Department (not Haz-Mat) to standby if a hazardous/explosive atmosphere is discovered. Haz-Mat, a Fire Company, and ambulance services will only be requested to standby when the Metro Meth Section executes a search warrant on what they believe to be an active, operational clandestine laboratory.

3. Notifying the Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) of all clandestine laboratories in every residence or building to possibly post the structure as uninhabitable.

F. Completion of Appropriate Report(s)

1. When a department member is required to make entry or is exposed to a hazardous chemical or substance at a clandestine laboratory, a Clandestine Laboratory Exposure Report, Form 258 P.D., will be completed. It will be the member's responsibility to complete the Form 258 P.D.
  - a. The original copy (white) will be forwarded to the Benefits Section where it will remain on file.
  - b. The pink copy will be placed in the member's unit jacket.
  - c. The yellow copy will be forwarded to the Metro Meth Section.
2. When a department member becomes injured or requires medical treatment as a result of an exposure, an Injury Report, Form 314 P.D., will be completed in addition to the Clandestine Laboratory Exposure Report, Form 258 P.D. If a member requires treatment at the scene, an ambulance will be requested immediately. Ambulance and hospital personnel will be notified of the type of exposure.
3. When a member receives third party information of a location that is involved in the production of controlled substances, the member will:
  - a. Complete a Suspected Narcotics Activity Report, Form 115 P.D. It is not necessary to hold the Form 115 P.D. until all information has been obtained; however, it is imperative that all attempts be made to obtain the exact address. (See the written directive entitled, "DRAGNET Reports," for completion of the Form 115 P.D.)
  - b. Attempt to document the names of reporting person(s) and occupants of the residence.

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- c. Obtain the description and condition of the residence or business.
- d. Attempt to ascertain what is being manufactured and if the lab is operational.
- e. Contact the Communications Unit Supervisor.

- (1) The Communications Unit Supervisor will contact the Metro Meth Section.
  - (2) The decision for response to the scene by the Metro Meth Section, Crime Scene Section, Regional Criminalistics Laboratory Chemist or Drug Enforcement Administration will be made by the Metro Meth Section.
4. Copies of all related reports should be forwarded to the Metro Meth Section.

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**ANNEX B**

## **CONTAMINATION AND DECONTAMINATION**

### **A. Contamination**

There are several ways that members may accidentally become contaminated by clandestine laboratory chemicals or substances. Touching an individual during an arrest or assist could cause a member to

become contaminated if that person has been exposed to a clandestine laboratory.

- \*1. Disposable gloves should be worn before coming into physical contact with any persons or objects; however, members should be aware that latex disposable gloves are generally not rated for protection against corrosive substances. Gloves rated as a “chemical barrier” should be worn at lab scenes/sites. Personal gloves should not be substituted for disposable gloves. If personal gloves become contaminated they should be treated as hazardous material and disposed of at the scene.
- \*2. Issued gas mask filters are ineffective at protecting members from chemical vapors found at most clandestine laboratories. Stay upwind/upgrade and at a recommended safe distance of at least 100 yards to mitigate inhalation of chemical vapors.
- \*3. A member should not touch any part of their body to prevent possible cross contamination.
4. A member should not eat or drink anything or put anything into their mouth (e.g., pen, gum) until they have been decontaminated.
5. A member should remember that clothing and shoe soles will absorb chemicals and can contaminate their home and family members.
6. Avoid contaminating other persons, objects, or equipment (e.g., patrol vehicle).
7. Receive medical attention if necessary.

#### B. Decontamination

1. The Site Safety Officer will determine the level of decontamination necessary at each scene.

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2. No one will be released from the scene until the Site Safety Officer has authorized their release. If any person has been contaminated, the Site Safety Officer will determine the level of decontamination necessary.
- \*3. Persons who are known or believed to have been contaminated, or who feel they have been exposed as a result of being near the site, will be decontaminated and receive the appropriate medical attention.

4. The Site Safety Officer and the on-scene supervisor or commander will organize transportation to the closest hospital facility, if needed.

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**ANNEX C**

### **CHEMICAL RECOVERY**

- \*A. When hazardous chemicals are present that are not of evidentiary value, the department chemist will coordinate the disposal of the chemicals with the assistance of the Metro Meth Section. At no time should hazardous chemicals of any kind be recovered and placed in a division station property room.

- B. If a chemical is spilled on the street, the Kansas City Fire Department's Hazardous Material Response Team (KCFD Haz-Mat Team) will be responsible for the clean up.
  
- C. Whenever a clandestine laboratory is present, the situation will be treated as a criminal offense and will require the response of the Metro Meth Section for investigation and chemical recovery.

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**ANNEX D**

### **CONCEALED TRAPS**

- A. Law enforcement personnel have encountered various types of concealed traps at clandestine laboratory sites. Extreme caution should be used when entering a clandestine laboratory and department members should refrain from touching anything at the site. If a trap is discovered, officers should follow the procedures outlined in the written directive entitled, "Explosive Device Calls."

- B. The following is not a complete list, but a generic description of some types of concealed traps:
1. Small foil balls containing a strong oxidizer, reactive metal, and solvent. Extremely shock sensitive, unstable, and explosive. Usually marble to golf ball size.
  2. Light switches wired to a flammable liquid container, booby-trapped light bulbs, or other explosive devices.
  - \*3. Refrigerator doors, and/or internal refrigerator light bulbs, wired to detonate an explosive liquid when opened.
  4. Mock video tape cassettes altered to detonate an internal explosive when placed into a video player.
  5. CO<sub>2</sub> cartridges, gun barrels, steel pipes, and dummy pineapple grenades (WWII surplus) filled with explosive material and connected to a detonation device.
  6. Hydrogen Cyanide Gas generator (a make-shift container with some type of acidic chemical designed to spill onto a toxic chemical).
  7. Open flammable liquid adjacent to an incendiary device.
  8. Attack dogs and poisonous/dangerous snakes.
  9. Monofilament trip lines connected to chemical or explosive booby-traps and/or firearms; i.e., an explosive device or shotgun rigged to a doorknob, doorway, or main entryway.
  10. Compressed Gas cylinders with discolored valves.
  11. Camping coolers or thermoses.