



SUBJECT

Clandestine Laboratory Operations

AMENDS

REFERENCE

P.I. - Explosive Device Calls

RESCINDS

Procedural Instruction 00-3

**I. PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines and procedures when a member comes into contact with a clandestine laboratory.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- 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) 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 or a 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 (usually a chemist) located at 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 Drug Task Force supervisor will be responsible for designating this person.

**III. ADMINISTRATIVE 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 one is discovered.
- B. **Clandestine laboratories will be considered high risk, hazardous waste material sites until declared safe by Metro Drug Task Force personnel.**

- C. The Communications Unit Supervisor should be called **anytime a clandestine laboratory is suspected**. The supervisor will contact the Metro Drug Task Force. The task force member(s) responding will be responsible for the processing of a clandestine laboratory.
- D. The Metro Drug Task Force should be called **anytime (24 hours a day)** a department member receives third party information of the location of a clandestine laboratory.
- E. A Clandestine Laboratory Exposure Report, Form 258 P.D., **will** be completed for all members who are required to make entry and any other member who is at the scene and has been exposed to a hazardous chemical or substance.
- F. It is impossible to set forth exact procedures for every situation. Therefore, members must exercise their best judgement based on training, experience, and knowledge of department policies and procedures when faced with unique and difficult situations.
- G. Due to the volatile, explosive, and unstable nature of a clandestine laboratory, department members will follow the outlined procedures in the Procedural Instruction entitled, "Explosive Device Calls," and discontinue use of and turn off all electronic equipment within 100 yards of the scene. (This includes the police radio, cellular telephone, MDT, and pager.)

#### **IV. PROCEDURES**

This directive has been arranged in annexes for 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  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2006.

Angela Wasson-Hunt  
President

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Department Elements  
Post on all bulletin boards for two weeks.

**CLANDESTINE LABORATORY OPERATIONS PROCEDURES**

## A. Clandestine Laboratories

1. When members suspect or become aware of a location that is involved in the production of drugs or other type of clandestine labs when handling a **call for service or residence check**, they 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. Exterior indicators of a clandestine laboratory are, but not limited to the following:
    - (1) Odor in and/or around the residence or vehicle.
    - (2) Covered windows on the residence.
    - (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).
  - b. Be attentive to the actions of individuals under the influence of methamphetamine. Certain individuals may show signs of:
    - (1) Excitability, talkativeness.
    - (2) Headaches.
    - (3) Dilated pupils.
    - (4) Redness of skin.
    - (5) Abdominal cramps.
    - (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.
- c. Chemicals associated with clandestine laboratories pose a major health and environmental risk to exposed members. Therefore, the following general safety guidelines should be followed:
- (1) **Do not** turn the electricity on or off.
  - (2) **Do not** turn off any water supplies.
  - (3) **Do not** touch anything. Just walking in the residence may contaminate the soles of your shoes.
  - (4) **Do not** attempt to dismantle the lab or stop the “cook.”
  - (5) **Immediately** remove yourself, any occupants, and other persons deemed to be in possible immediate danger, to a “safe area” away from the lab (at least 100 yards).
  - (6) **Do not eat or drink in or near the lab site.**
  - (7) **Do not smoke or ignite any flammable materials.**
  - (8) **Do not put any objects in the mouth. Objects such as pens, pencils, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, gum, candy, etc., should be thrown away, not taken into the site, and/or sanitized.**
  - (9) Request a sector sergeant.
  - (10) Detain occupants and/or witnesses.
  - (11) Treat the area as you would any other crime scene.
  - (12) It is imperative that **no one** enter the premises when a clandestine laboratory or a hazardous scene has been discovered. **Be aware that toxic chemicals are not easily detected.**
2. When officers stop a vehicle on a **traffic stop or a car check** and a clandestine laboratory, equipment, illicit chemicals, or hazardous materials are observed in the vehicle, they will:
- a. Remove themselves and occupants away from the vehicle and detain the occupants.

- b. **Not** move the vehicle from its current location, tow, or touch anything inside the vehicle.
  - c. Divert traffic around the vehicle until an on-site assessment can be conducted by the Metro Drug Task Force. **It is not necessary to block off intersections.**
  - d. Be aware of sharp objects and other possible lab items when searching the individual. Needles and razor blades are commonly associated with these individuals.
  - e. Request a sector sergeant.
3. Operating a police radio, mobile phone, or any other type of electronic equipment in close proximity of a clandestine laboratory site can create an explosion. Radio and telephone communications may be restricted to outside the residence or structure and at a safe distance (See Procedural Instruction – Explosive Device Calls).
4. The responding sector sergeant will evaluate the incident. If a clandestine laboratory is present, the sector sergeant will:
- a. Notify the dispatcher of the situation.
  - b. Request the dispatcher notify the Metro Drug Task Force to respond.
  - c. Request that additional officers be dispatched to assist in establishing a safe perimeter and securing the premises.
  - \*d. Establish a controlled entry/exit location at the scene and begin a Crime Scene Log, Form 227 P.D.
5. A Metro Drug Task Force supervisor, and/or detective, upon arrival at the scene, will have overall authority and responsibility for the scene. Other responsibilities will include:
- a. Requesting responses from the Kansas City Crime Laboratory, Crime Scene, or Drug Enforcement Administration personnel, and/or the Kansas City Metro Drug Task Force.
  - \*b. If a hazardous atmosphere; i.e., explosive atmospheric level, is discovered the Metro Drug Task Force will request the Fire Department (not Haz-Mat) to standby. Haz-Mat, a Fire Company, and MAST will only be requested to standby when Metro Drug Task Force executes a search warrant on what they believe to be an active operational laboratory.

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

B. 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 Clandestine Laboratory Exposure Report, Form 258 P.D.
  - a. The original (white) copy 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 Drug Task Force.
2. When department members receive **third party information** of a location that is involved in the production of controlled substances, they 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 Procedural Instruction entitled, "DRAGNET Reports," for completion of the Suspected Narcotics Activity Report, Form 115 P.D.)
  - b. Attempt to document the names of reporting person(s) and occupants of the residence.
  - 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. The supervisor will then contact the Metro Drug Task Force.
  - f. Any request for responses to the scene by the Kansas City Crime Laboratory, Kansas City Metro Drug Task Force, Crime Scene, or Drug Enforcement Administration personnel is to be made by the Metro Drug Task Force.

3. 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, the Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust (MAST) should be notified immediately. MAST and hospital personnel will be notified of the type of exposure.**
4. Copies of all related reports should be forwarded to the Metro Drug Task Force.

C. Safety Actions

The first person to discover a clandestine laboratory site may potentially be exposed to significant hazards. Initial actions at the scene may preserve individual safety and protect other personnel and the environment. Critical safety actions include requesting help, warning others, isolating the area, and providing important response information. The following safety actions are separate from the steps taken to apprehend suspects, and securing and preserving evidence.

1. **Do not** enter or re-enter after initial discovery.
2. **Do not** enter spill areas.
3. **Do not** rescue someone unless personal safety can be maintained.
4. Request a sector sergeant.
5. 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 **only** those within the immediate operation.
  - \*c. Isolate/protect surrounding areas as appropriate using barrier tape. A larger taped area can be condensed if needed. Too small of a taped area may be insufficient and unable to expand.
6. Observe from a distance.
7. Evacuate at the first sign of potential danger or exposure.
8. Observe with your eyes, **not your hands**. Avoid contact with **anything** at the scene.

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 Procedural Instruction – Explosive Device Calls).
10. Always request assistance.

## CONTAMINATION AND DECONTAMINATION

### A. Contamination

There are several ways that members may accidentally come into contact with chemicals that will contaminate them. The touching of 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, objects, or chemicals. 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. A member should not touch any part of their body.
3. A member should should not eat or drink anything until they have been decontaminated.
4. A member should not put anything into their mouth.
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 or things (e.g., patrol vehicle).
7. Get medical attention if necessary.

### B. Decontamination

1. The Site Safety Officer will determine the level of decontamination necessary at each scene.
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 which level of decontamination should be given.
3. Persons who have been contaminated or feel they have been exposed as a result of being near the site, will be decontaminated and receive the appropriate medical attention.
4. If transportation to the closest hospital facility is needed, this will be organized by the Site Safety Officer and the on-scene sergeant or commander.

**CHEMICAL RECOVERY**

- A. When only chemicals are present, that are not of evidentiary value, the department chemist will coordinate the disposal of the chemicals with the assistance of the Kansas City Metro Drug Task Force. **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. When a clandestine laboratory is present, the situation will be treated as a criminal offense and require the response of the Kansas City Metro Drug Task Force.

## CONCEALED TRAPS

Law enforcement personnel have encountered various types of concealed traps at clandestine drug laboratory sites. Caution should be used when entering a clandestine laboratory and department members should refrain from touching anything. **If a trap is discovered, officers should follow the procedures outlined in the Procedural Instruction entitled, “Explosive Device Calls.”**

The following is not a complete list, but a generic description of some of those types of concealed traps:

- A. Small foil balls containing a strong oxidizer, reactive metal and solvent. Extremely shock sensitive, unstable, and explosive. Usually marble to golf ball size.
- B. Light switches wired to a flammable liquid container, booby-trapped light bulbs, or other explosive devices.
- C. Refrigerator doors and their internal light bulbs wired to detonate an explosive liquid when opened.
- D. Mock video tape cassettes altered to detonate an internal explosive when placed into a video player.
- E. 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.
- \*F. Hydrogen Cyanide Gas generator (a make-shift container with some type of acidic chemical designed to spill onto a toxic chemical).
- G. Open flammable liquid adjacent to an incendiary device.
- H. Attack dogs and poisonous/dangerous snakes.
- I. Monofilament trip lines connected to a chemical or explosive booby-traps and/or firearms; i.e., an explosive device or shotgun rigged to a doorknob, doorway, or main entryway.
- J. Compressed Gas cylinders with discolored valves.
- K. Camping coolers or thermoses.