

# Owner-Assisted Cleanup of Drug Lab Properties



Owner's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

**Anyone participating in owner-assisted cleanup of an unfit for use drug lab property must adhere to the following guidelines:**

- DHS must approve the owner's participation. In order to approve this participation the following criteria must be met:
  1. Methamphetamine (meth) was the only drug manufactured at the site; and
  2. The method of manufacturing was the ephedrine-red phosphorus or ephedrine- sodium/lithium metal method; and
  3. The manufacturing occurred after 1994; and
  4. No visual or apparent evidence of manufacturing-related contamination, filth, and debris, or biohazards are present; and
  5. No manufacturing-related fire occurred; and
  6. There was no unauthorized cleaning or removal of items; and
  7. Owners were not implicated in the manufacturing.
- The owner is required to work under the close supervision of a Licensed Drug Lab Cleanup Contractor.
- Only the owner and/or owner's agents, as defined in OAR 333-040-0020(1), who are approved and specifically named in the Work Plan are allowed to enter the property and/or assist with the cleanup work.
- All work performed on site will be in accordance with the approved Work Plan.
- All drug lab-related cleanup outlined in the approved Work Plan must be completed and the Certificate of Fitness must be received before ANY use, repair, or remodeling is allowed.
- Owner participation may be suspended or terminated at any time if work is not being done according to the approved plan and under the supervision of the contractor. Civil penalties may be imposed if these procedures are not followed.

## **What are possible health effects from exposure to illegal drug lab contaminants?**

Many "ingredients" are present during the meth cooking process, including solvents or volatile organic compounds (VOCs), corrosives (acids or bases), and/or metals. Other potential hazards may include hypodermic needles (sharps) and meth residue. These materials may remain on surfaces and in the air after the bust.

Health effects can vary greatly depending on the following factors:

- The particular chemical to which you are exposed
- The amount of each chemical to which you are exposed
- The length of time of the exposure
- The general health of the person being exposed

Exposure to solvents may cause symptoms such as nose and throat irritation, headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and breathing difficulties. Corrosives can cause burning of the skin, eyes, nose, mouth, and throat, and can cause severe damage. Exposure to metals and salts can cause a wide range of health effects including respiratory irritation, decreased mental function, kidney damage, and birth defects.

Sharps such as hypodermic needles pose a risk of exposure to serious diseases such as hepatitis and AIDS.

The effects of exposure to meth residues, either chronic or acute, have not been thoroughly studied. Preliminary studies suggest that the drug may be absorbed through the skin, inhaled, or ingested. Effects of this exposure may mirror the effects of use of the drug, including increased heart rate, central nervous system impacts, and impacts to fetal development and infants for pregnant and nursing women. Children have a greater risk of this exposure due to crawling and exploring with their hands and mouths.

### **What level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should I wear?**

There are four general routes of exposure to hazards:

- **Ingestion**, which may result from inadvertently eating contaminants through improper hygiene. In order to protect yourself be sure to wash your hands and face before eating, drinking, or smoking.
- **Injection**, which would result from a needle stick or stepping on a nail. Be sure to wear thick-soled leather shoes and leather or thick plastic gloves. Be sure to avoid handling sharps by using pliers to place them in approved sharps containers.
- **Absorption**, which would result from a contaminant coming in contact with the skin. To prevent skin contact be sure to wear long sleeves and pants. A Tyvek suit, thick gloves, and safety glasses are also suggested during the cleaning process.
- **Inhalation**, which may result from contaminants becoming airborne during the cleanup process. A dust mask is recommended to avoid inhaling these contaminants. VOCs are sometimes present as well, which may linger in the air. If VOCs are present a respirator may be required. If odors are present please consult with your contractor or DHS.

### **Acknowledgement of Receipt**

I have read and understand the dangers and hazards involved in the cleanup of a drug lab property. My contractor has supplied me with or suggested the proper protective equipment to utilize during the process. **I have also been supplied with a copy of the Work Plan and have read it thoroughly.** I understand that any work performed must be done under the supervision of the licensed contractor, in accordance with the Work Plan as approved by DHS, and consistent with the contractor's training and instructions. I understand that the property cannot be used, repaired, or remodeled until the cleanup is completed and the property has received a Certificate of Fitness.

Owner's signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Contractor's Agreement**

I have provided the owner a copy of the proposed Work Plan for this property. I will visit the property and meet with the owner in person to provide detailed training, instruction, and assistance in proper methods and procedures. I will provide the owner a copy of the final DHS approved Work Plan, teach him or her about the use of proper protective equipment, and all work conducted by the owner will be done under my supervision. I will visit the site again and review the work to ensure the work plan was completely followed prior to submitting the final report to DHS.

Contractor's signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_