



Response to Illicit Drug Labs

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About the problem

Clandestine drug labs - non-pharmaceutical industry sponsored operations that manufacture illegal drugs - are a growing problem for cities and towns. These illicit facilities may be located in homes, motels, storage facilities - even in cars and hotel rooms. Wherever they are found, they present a threat to the neighborhood and to responders who may discover the lab or who stumble upon it during a response to another type of incident.

Most drug labs make methamphetamine - meth - a synthetic stimulant that can be found as a powder, crystal or oil. The manufacturing process can result in hazardous chemical reactions, explosions, and harm to the environment. When smoked, ingested or inhaled, meth may cause severe mood swings and irrational behavior which could make it particularly difficult for responders to interact with the user, adding to the danger.

About the program

"Response to Illicit Drug Labs" is a video-based training program for law enforcement, firefighters, hazmat teams and environmental response personnel who may be involved in a raid at an illegal lab, or who may unexpectedly discover a clandestine lab. It is available in both

DVD and VHS.

The program examines the multiple dangers presented by illicit labs, examines the chemicals and equipment that are typically found at such labs and discusses the hazards and risks during extraction, conversion and synthesis processing operations. It covers the dangers at all the lab phases: active labs, boxed labs and dumpsites.

The program discusses personal protective clothing and equipment that would be needed in the hazardous environment of a drug lab, and also covers decontamination issues and disposal of recovered hazardous waste.

The viewer learns how to recognize the presence of illicit drug labs when responding to a fire, explosion, or other type of incident. Proper procedures for fighting fires are outlined, including evacuation of the area and containing runoff. The program also discusses organizing a raid on an active lab, and appropriate termination activities.

A special segment on the DVD and called "Hazmat for Meth Labs" provides an indepth examination of the dangerous processes used during the manufacture of meth, and also studies the hazards of the common chemicals used at labs.

Running time for the program, including the special segment, is 35 minutes.

About the technical committee

Emergency Film Group programs are created with the assistance of leaders in emergency response training. Technical committee members for "Response to Illicit Drug Labs" include the following authorities:

Jay T. Burton, Harrah (OK), Police

Dept. where he is Clandestine Laboratory Certified and Site Safety Officer Certified.

Msgt. James Creighton, Director, Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois

Steve Hergenreter, Captain, HazMat Response Team, Fort Dodge (IA) Fire Dept.

John Meyers, Senior Forensic Chemist, with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (ret.)

August Vernon, Asst. Coordinator Emergency Manager, Forsyth Cty. (NC) Emergency Management

About the filmmakers

Gordon Massingham, Director. Principal creative person behind some 150 emergency response training films and videos. Winner of the IAFC 2004 Lifetime Achievement award.

Michael Cataldo, Writer & Line Producer, an art director, producer, assistant director, set designer and prop and special effects creator.

About the Emergency Film Group

Emergency Film Group, a division of the Detrick Lawrence Corp., was established to distribute quality training films for emergency response and right to know education. Firmly committed to accuracy, EFG uses the best qualified advisors and production crews to ensure that programs are not only exciting to watch, but are also accurate in every detail.

EFG's worldwide list of customers range from the largest petrochemical companies, to government agencies, to small town fire departments. Every film comes with EFG's 30-day money-back guarantee if the customer is not 100% satisfied.

For a free color catalog describing all programs available from the Emergency Film Group, please call the toll-free number below.