Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority
FIELD OPERATING GUIDELINES

EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTION PLANS
F.O.G. #: 1804 **CATEGORY: Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory Response**
DATE: October 29, 2018 **PAGES:** 7

I. Purpose:

A. To define guidelines for clandestine methamphetamine laboratory response.

II. Guideline:

A. Background:

1. The demand for methamphetamine and its ease of manufacture has led to an identified need to respond to clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, associated hazardous chemical constituent storage locations, and hazardous waste abandonment sites. The response to and management of functioning laboratories requires the participation of adequately trained and equipped personnel.

2. This response plan is developed so that drug lab/hazardous materials events may be handled effectively, efficiently and most importantly safely. Since these types of events are hazardous materials incidents, they fall within the mission of the Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority. The HazMat Team will supplement the following drug lab guidelines with recognized HazMat practices and operations when responding to known or suspected clandestine drug laboratories.

3. ***IMPORTANT:*** The local jurisdiction shall be responsible to minimally provide an Advanced Life Support ambulance and an engine company for the duration of the incident to support the HazMat Team operations, as requested by the Incident Commander and HazMat Team Leader. The Incident Commander is designated by the local authority having jurisdiction where the incident is taking place. The Adams and Jefferson County HazMat Team works under the operations section function within the local Incident Command System.

    a) 29 CFR 1910.120 specifies that the Incident Commander of any hazardous materials event be trained at no less that the Operations Level. Considering that most law enforcement personnel are trained to the Awareness Level, unified command between fire and police is highly recommended.

B. The Team will provide the following general response components for these types of events.

1. A Supervisor from the local Drug Task Force will call Jeffcom Dispatch by phone or radio requesting a Team Leader to call him/her.

2. The Team Leader shall call the Drug Task Force Supervisor and receive a briefing over the phone with whatever information is available, i.e. potential size of the lab, the surroundings of the location (residential, commercial, apartment, motel, etc.).

3. The Team Leader shall then contact the local Incident Commander (local Fire Chief or another designated IC). In concert with the Task Force Supervisor and the HazMat Team Leader, the local IC shall decide which (if any) resources will be needed from the HazMat Team and identify a staging location. The Team Leader will then have the appropriate resources dispatched to the staging area.

4. The Team Leader must ensure that Jeffcom Communications Center dispatches the call with the specific request for resources or a Level II Full Team Call Out, depending upon the anticipated resource needs requested by the local I.C. The page from Jeffcom Dispatch will be an ALL CALL page to ensure all Team Members are notified of the potential Team activities.

5. ***NOTE:*** Arrival of Adams Jeffco Team Members does not relieve the Authority Having Jurisdiction of the need to provide operational resources. It is not expected that the Technician level personnel assigned to the team will be involved in non-essential operations outside of the activities identified in the Adams and Jefferson County HazMat Team Field Operating Guidelines. Non-Technician level personnel (if any) responding as a part of the team may be assigned as needed to support functions.

C. Team Responders

1. To the extent possible, HazMat Team members who are on call as team responders should expect to be on scene for at least 2 hours. Every attempt to release Technician level personnel as quickly as possible will be made; however, the overall chemical and exposure safety of the scene and of HazMat personnel is the primary consideration of the HazMat Team Leader in all decisions regarding staffing and resource use.

2. <u>The HazMat Team Leader will have absolute discretion in determining when and how to safely downsize an incident and the release of HazMat Technician personnel to return to their normal fire department assignments.</u> Therefore, the following are the initial response protocols for the Adams Jeffco HazMat Team for actual or potential drug lab events.

   a) Every agency housing an AJCHRA owned vehicle agrees to provide one Hazardous Materials Technician at all times.

   b) At a minimum, the team will have a **Team Leader; who may also act as HazMat Team Safety on small incidents, Two-person recon/entry team**, and **Two-person backup team** that may also perform emergency decon procedures if needed.

   c) The HazMat Team will function under the normal ICS structure with the HazMat Team Technicians operating within the operations section under the direction of the HazMat

(Branch) Team Leader**.** A unified command between law enforcement and fire is to be strongly encouraged.

d) A pre-entry briefing will be conducted with an initial action plan being developed, based on the best available information prior to any entry of HazMat Team personnel. HazMat Teams Site Safety Plan shall be developed, documented on the appropriate form and utilized throughout the incident.

e) Team protocols for response reporting will be followed.

D. Identification and Mitigation of Chemical Hazards

1. Once the scene has been secured by the Drug Task Force (DTF), local law enforcement or SWAT Team, the HazMat Team will assist the DTF, as needed, in the identification and mitigation of any chemical hazards that may be present by:

a) Performing a 360-degree reconnaissance of the exterior of the facility, structure, or vehicle noting any of the following:

1) Chemical hazards unsafe practices such as incompatible chemical storage arrangements or locations requiring a determined level of mitigation.

2) Containers inconsistent or incompatible with content requiring a determined level of mitigation.

3) Lack of intrinsically safe electronic devices and power supplies.

4) Improper hazardous chemical and waste handling practices.

b) Entering the facility, structure, or vehicle and performing a 360-degree systematic reconnaissance with air monitoring equipment. The Entry/Recon Team will monitor the environment to determine oxygen levels, if any explosive atmosphere or IDLH conditions exist and necessary PPE for hazards presented. This information will also be utilized to develop a management plan to ensure safe interior operations.

c) Ensuring the review of the Top Ten Clan Lab Hazards in development of the incident action plan:

1) Flammable and/or explosive atmosphere
2) Acutely toxic atmospheres
3) Leaking or damaged compressed gas cylinders
4) Labs located in confined space
5) Water reactive and pyrophoric chemicals
6) Damaged and leaking chemical containers
7) Electrical hazards and sources of ignition
8) Reactions-in progress, hot and/or under pressure

9) Incompatible chemical reactions
10) Bombs and booby traps (Request Bomb Squad Immediately)

2. Once interior reconnaissance is completed and a mitigation plan is developed, the necessary resources shall be identified and contacted based on one of the following scenarios:

   a) The scene has been deemed safe for the DTF with appropriate PPE to perform their specific job task such as collecting samples and evidence without the support of the HazMat Team.

   b) A private contractor has been contacted to remediate the scene by the DTF and the support of the HazMat Team is not needed.

   c) The HazMat Team remains on scene to provide support based on needs. This may require additional HazMat team resources such as a Level II (Full Team Call Out) depending on incident dynamics and needs.

3. The major operational areas of the HazMat Team and local response agencies to support these types of incidents are:

   a) **Air Monitoring** - to ensure that there is sufficient oxygen, no greater than 10% of the LEL (no flammable dangers) and no measurable IDLH values that cannot be identified and protected against by using proper PPE, or other unacceptable acute or chronic risk.

   b) **Technical Assistance** - to provide testing or monitoring assets otherwise unavailable to the Drug Task Force, establish safety perimeters to isolate the general area and scene controls via "Control Zones" [Exclusion (Hot) zone, Contamination Reduction (Warm) zone, and Support (Cold) zone].

   c) **Mitigation** - of uncontrolled releases of hazardous chemicals by appropriate action objectives such as neutralization, plug, patch, absorption, and dilution, overpack and vapor dispersion.

   d) **Identification/Classification Assistance –** for unknown chemicals using the chemical classification kit. This classification will be used to determine major waste stream classifications and incompatibilities and will not be used to verify specific chemicals.

   e) **Off-Site Consequence Management -** if an unexpected release occurs as a result of the seizure of the drug lab.

   f) **Emergency Decon** - for SWAT personnel and more comprehensive Decon for the ongoing operation. ***IMPORTANT***: A contamination reduction plan must be in place and established prior to entry/recon team entering the potential exclusion zone.

4. Clandestine Labs are crime scenes, therefore controlled access points will be in place for all drug lab incidents. In addition, all team members must be aware of and must adhere to the following guidelines as determined by local law enforcement:

    a) Unauthorized personnel or response personnel that have not been assigned a specific task shall not enter the facility, building or vehicle.

    b) A personnel accountability system must be established and maintained throughout the incident.

    c) Crime scene integrity must be maintained at all times.

    d) Prevent the contamination of evidence whenever possible. (Consult with a member of the DTF before moving or touching items during the operation whenever possible.)

    e) Be cautious of any object or article that arouses curiosity or suspicion:

        1) Don't touch or move the item
        2) Evacuate the area
        3) Notify command immediately
        4) If you suspect a **booby trap**

            - **Don't Touch IT**
            - **Don't Move IT**
            - **Get OUT**
            - **Don't use radios**
            - **Evacuate the area**
            - **Consult the Bomb Squad**

    f) The Local Incident Command has the ultimate responsibility for scene control and safety. The HazMat Team Leader must ensure personnel safety at all times.

5. The HazMat Team may assist the DTF in notification of various local, state, and federal agencies as appropriate.

    a) EPA Emergency Response and 24-HR Spill Reporting 303-293-1788
    b) National Response Center 1-800-424-8802
    c) CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300
    d) RCRA/Supervened Hot Line 1-800-424-9346
    e) DOT Hazardous Materials Information 1-202-366-4488
    f) OSHA Hotline 1-800-321-6742
    g) NIOSH Information 1-800-356-4674
    h) US Coast Guard Command Center 1-202-267-2100
    i) Colorado Dept of Health 24 hr. Environmental Emergency Spill Reporting line 877-518-5608
    j) Colorado State Patrol Dispatch 24 hr 303-239-4501

k) Jeffcom Dispatch Center 303-980-7300
l) CSP 24 hr. emergency phone for notification of all federal and state agencies of terrorist activity 303-279-8855
m) Tri-County Health Department pager 303-890-0230 (24/7)

E. To maximize cost reimbursements, all appropriate forms, supporting documents, receipts, and records shall be submitted by the HazMat Team Leader to the Adams/Jeffco Hazmat Team Coordinator within 2 normal workdays of the incidents. To be eligible for EPA reimbursement (not guaranteed), the NRC must be notified at 1-800-424-8802 within 24 hours of the incident.

F. Operational Considerations

1. The following information may be used as field guidelines by the Adams/Jeffco HazMat Team. The material referenced is published by Network Environmental Systems, Inc., Rancho Cordova, CA. This information is to be used as guideline only and if other more specific information is available, the more specific information should take precedence. The following information is in 3 parts:

a) ***Part I - Clandestine Laboratory First Responder Field Guide First Edition 1999***

1) Part I is a reprint of the following information:

i) Refer to page **17** to review the most *common clan lab odors*.
ii) Refer to pages **27 through 34** for the *hazards and chemicals associated* with the most common types of labs.

b) ***Part II - Clandestine Laboratory Operations and Safety Field Guide First Edition 1999***

1) Part II is a reprint of the following information:

i) Refer to page 10 to review Maximum Use Concentrations for APR cartridge capacity.
ii) Refer to page 13 to review Draeger Multi Gas Detector Information and Tube Corrections Factors.
iii) Refer to page 45 to review Summary of Colorimetric Tube Instructions.
iv) Refer to page 15 to review Decontamination Solutions.
v) Refer to page 22 to review *Chemical Incompatibility*.
vi) Refer to page 23 through 27 for general *Chemical Guide* for materials used in drug labs.
vii) Refer to page 28 for Team Procedures Based on Atmospheric Conditions as to actions and PPE.
viii) Refer to page 29 to 44 for Specific Lab Assessments and Characteristics.

c) ***Part III - Clandestine Laboratory Operations Site Safety Officer First Edition 1999***

1) Clandestine Laboratory Operations Site Safety Officer First Edition 1999:

i) Refer to page 15 for Maintenance of Draeger Accuro.
ii) Refer to page 16 for Troubleshooting for Draeger Pump.
iii) Refer to pages 24 through 31 for Clan Lab Profiles.
iv) Refer to page 32 for Clan Lab High Hazard Chemicals TLV's and Skin Absorbing Chemicals.
v) Refer to page 43 for Clan Lab Cylinder Handling.
vi) Refer to page 45 for Clan Lab Chemical Segregation Guide.
vii) Note: Other information is contained in these Field Guides that may be of use to the response community.

III. References:

A. Reference 1