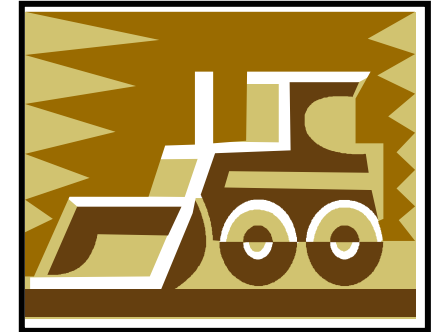




What is a Meth Lab?



- Have you noticed that you won't find Sudafed or Actifed on the shelves anymore?
- Instances of methamphetamine abuse in Ohio are on the increase, with devastating effects.
- All ODOT workers who venture in the field should be knowledgeable about the dangers of meth labs, how to recognize them, and what to do if you find one.



What is a Meth Lab, cont.....

- Household products contain most of the necessary chemicals to complete the manufacturing process.
- Meth is often made in clandestine labs in a variety of locations, such as houses, apartments, motels, vehicles, wooded areas and more commonly, on public land such as under bridges, in rest-areas, roadside right-of-way, and abandoned houses.
- The chemicals used to make meth are toxic, and can cause serious health effects if handled or inhaled.

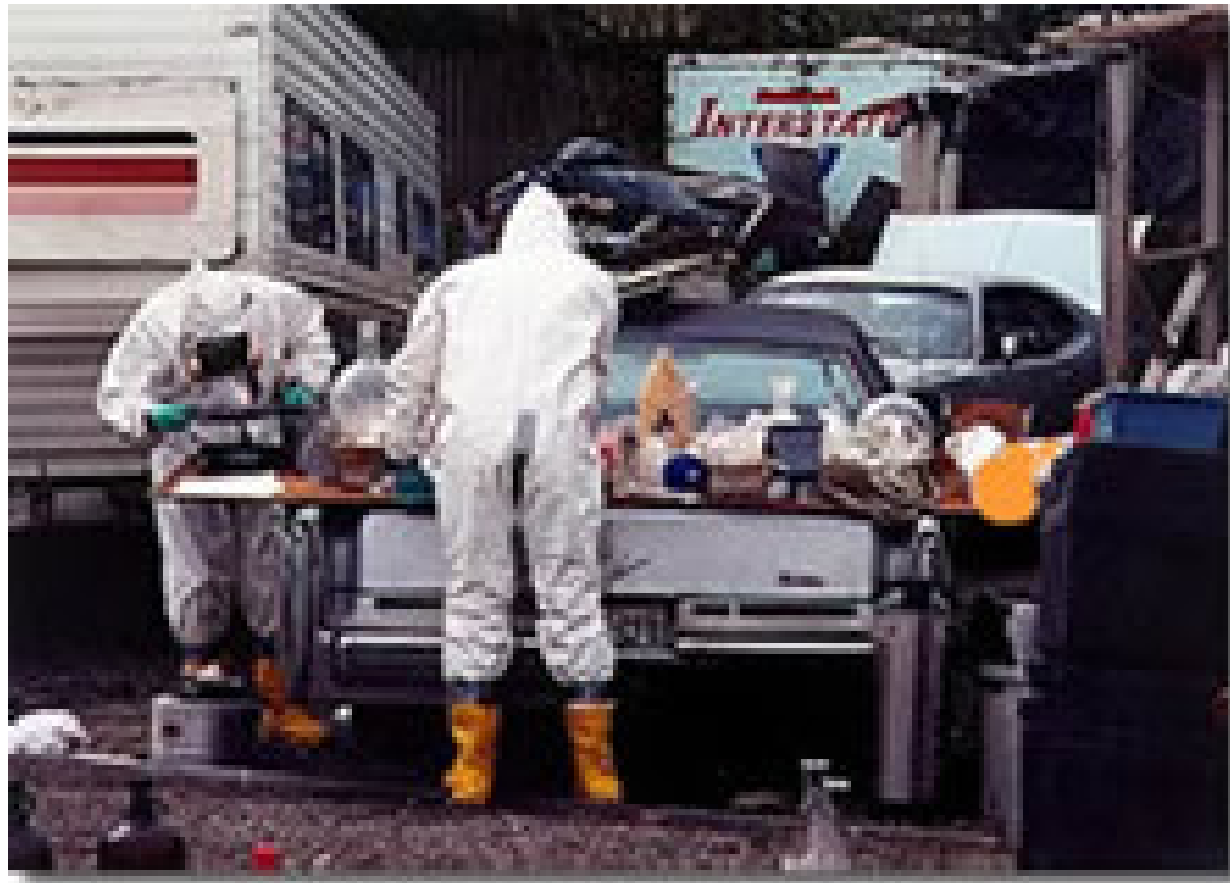


What is a Meth Lab, cont.....

- Meth typically uses pseudoephedrine, decongestants. Basically, over-the-counter cold tablets are placed in a solution of water, alcohol and other solvent, then using common household products, and a recipe learned from friends or internet, the pseudoephedrine is converted or “cooked” into high quality meth in makeshift labs by untrained individuals.
- Meth “cooking” leaves behind 5-7 pounds of chemical waste for each pound of meth made. These wastes are considered hazardous wastes and must be cleaned up by a trained Haz. Waste Response Team.
- The waste left behind is often dumped into streams, rivers, sewage systems or onto public land (adjacent roadways).



Never a good sign.....





What is a Meth Lab, cont.....

- Exposure to meth lab chemicals can cause shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, dizziness, lack of coordination, skin irritation/burning. Explosions are common with volatile fuel tanks. Have been found “rigged to explode” at public locations.
- In 2004, 354 labs were found in Ohio. 113 of them were in Summit County alone.
- These were mainly found in rural areas, which is attractive to meth makers because the process emits a strong odor and can be done in obscurity.



How do I recognize a Meth Lab?

- Meth labs can range from one using highly specified chemical apparatus, to one where kitchen pots and pans, canning jars or other everyday items are used.
- If you happen upon something that looks suspicious, take caution.....!
- Clues that may indicate illegal production of meth may include
 - Access denied to properties for ODOT business.
 - Covering or blacking-out of windows.
 - Security measures (such as baby monitors) outside of buildings or on trees.
 - Burn pits, stained soil or dead vegetations indicating dumping of chemicals



How do I recognize a Meth Lab, cont.....

- Waste in trash bins, or piles, such as”
 - Packaging from over-the-counter cold, diet or allergy pills;
 - Empty containers from: antifreeze, white gas, ether, starting fluids, freon, lye or drain openers, paint thinner, or acetone.
- Compressed gas cylinders or camp stoves (Coleman) fuel containers.
- Packaging from epon salts or rock salts.
- Bottles, containers or pyrex glass connected with rubber hosing and duct tape, with dried chemical deposits.
- Coffee filters, funnels, coolers (other cold storage containers) masks, pillow cases stained from filtering.



How do I recognize a Meth Lab, cont.....

- Buildings, or areas that smell like chemicals, including sweet, bitter, ammonia or solvent smells.
- Use caution when approaching abandoned cars, coolers and large boxes. Highway workers have been injured by opening coolers and car trunks.
- Common meth lab injuries occur when closed containers of ammonia are opened out of curiosity or habit. When a suspicious package, bag or assortment of trash is found, **DO NOT HANDLE OR MOVE!**



Coolers





Gas line Antifreeze or ephedrine





Home chemistry set?





Car Trunks





OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Danger: Risk of Explosion!





Cooked product





OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Box lab





Muriatic Acid or other chemicals





Blister Packs





Excessive Trash





Homemade Pipe Fittings





Fuel





Iodine Stains





Fire damage





Stained filters



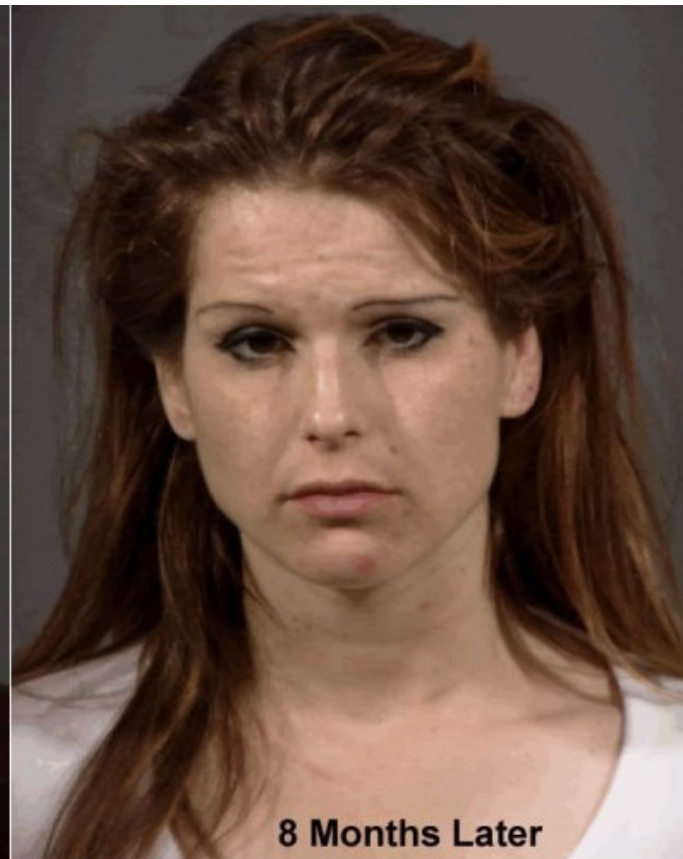
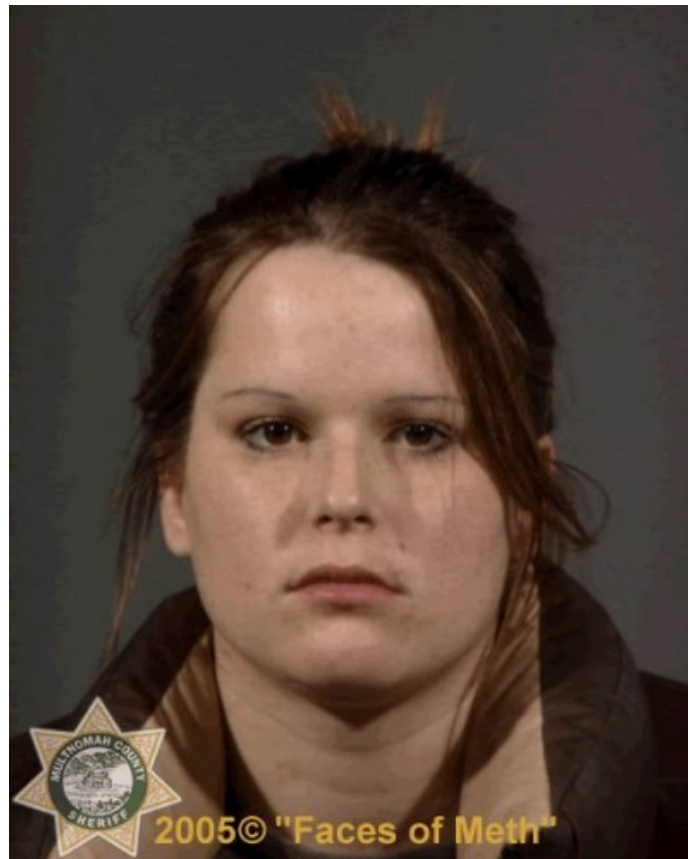


What to do if you find a Meth Lab.

- ODOT's Hazardous Waste Management Manual states:
 1. Do no move, touch or handle. Notify your supervisor, and/or our District Hazardous Waste Coordinator (DHWC).
 2. The supervisor or DHWC should then notify the local Ohio State Highway Patrol and the jurisdictional local law enforcement agency.
- Under no circumstance are meth labs and/or dumped materials from the manufacturing of meth to be moved to an ODOT facility or transported by an ODOT vehicle. Responsibility for this material is the responsibility of the Highway Patrol or local law enforcement.



Meth Users – Before and After





Meth Users – Before and After





Meth Users – Before and After





Meth Users – Before and After





Meth Users – Before and After





Questions

