



### *What is a meth lab?*

Methamphetamine is often made in clandestine labs (clan labs or meth labs). Labs can be in houses, apartments, motels, vehicles, wooded areas or other buildings.

There are hundreds of chemical products and substances used interchangeably to produce meth. Different meth recipes result in finished products with different colors, making meth difficult to describe.

### *How do I recognize a meth lab?*

Clues that may indicate illegal production or sales of drugs include the following:

- Access denied to landlords, neighbors and other visitors
- Cooks have no visible means of support but make cash purchases and payments
- Covering or blacking-out of windows
- Other security measures such as cameras or baby monitors outside of buildings
- Unusual traffic and activities, such as excessive night traffic or purchases taking place
- Burn pits, stained soil or dead vegetation indicating dumping of chemicals or waste
- Apartments or buildings that smell like chemicals, including sweet, bitter, ammonia or solvent smells.
- Waste in trash, pits or piles including chemicals or equipment used to produce meth (see Chemical and Equipment lists).



### *What do you do if you find a meth lab?*

In Blue Earth County, meth labs have been found in homes, vehicles, motel rooms, farm buildings, secluded wooded sites and storage buildings in or near the following communities:

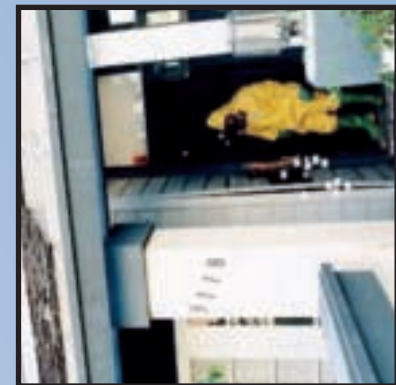
- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Rapidan       | St. Clair    |
| Good Thunder  | Madison Lake |
| Garden City   | Mankato      |
| Mapleton      | Pemberton    |
| Eagle Lake    | Lake Crystal |
| Vernon Center |              |

An individual who believes he or she has discovered an illegal drug lab or the site of an abandoned lab should immediately notify local law enforcement (**dial 911**) and should not enter the area of the suspected lab or confront the person suspected of cooking the meth. Meth labs are very dangerous and volatile. Anyone who inadvertently enters a lab should back out immediately without disturbing the cooking process, chemicals or equipment.



### **BLUE EARTH COUNTY**

Sheriff's Office  
Law Enforcement Center  
710 South Front Street  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-387-8710



*Methamphetamine in Blue Earth County*

**Recognizing the signs of production and use**

Some photos provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration.



## What is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine (meth) is an extremely powerful and addictive stimulant in the amphetamine family of drugs.

Meth is a man-made drug. It's sold in the form of pills, powder or chunks. It can be swallowed, snorted, smoked or injected in its various forms. Meth may appear as an odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder or as chunks of ice or crystal. It ranges in color depending on the ingredients used to make it. Most Minnesota meth is made using anhydrous ammonia, making the drug white to light brown in color. Imported meth is often pink.

Common street names of meth include speed, meth, chalk, ice, crystal, crank and glass.



Mug shots of a 10-year meth user (Age 31, 1979 to Age 41, 1989).

## How do I recognize a meth user?

Smell on body, breath or clothes • Extreme hyperactivity  
 Unexplained silliness • Constant sweating/poor grooming  
 Rapid weight loss • Increase or decrease in appetite  
 Sores on body • Needle marks • Grinding of teeth  
 Drop in school performance • Chronic lying/dishonesty  
 Unexplained money spending • Change in activities  
 Forgetfulness • Violent temper • Bizarre behavior  
 Paranoia • Suspiciousness • Excessive need for privacy  
 Secretive or suspicious behavior • Resentful behavior  
 Drug paraphernalia • Never sleeps • Loses friends  
 Death



Glassware

Hot Plate

Scale

Coffee Grinder

Funnels

Gas Cans

Coffee Filters

Pails & Buckets



Trichloroethane

Pseudoephedrine

Red Phosphorus

Trichloroethane

Toluene

Ephedrine

Lithium

Methanol

Solvents

## Equipment

Pyrex or Corning dishes • Jugs/bottles • Paper towels  
 Coffee filters • Thermometer • Cheesecloth • Funnels  
 Blenders • Rubber tubing/gloves • Pails/buckets • Gas cans  
 Tape/clamps • Internet documents/notes • Strainers  
 Aluminum foil • Propane cylinders (20 lbs.) "How To Make  
 Methamphetamine" books • Hotplates  
 Plastic Storage containers/ice chests • Measuring cups  
 Towels/bed sheets • Laboratory beakers/glassware

## Chemicals

Alcohol (Isopropyl or Rubbing) • Toluene (Brake  
 Cleaner) • Ether (Engine Starter) • Sulfuric Acid (Drain  
 Cleaner) • Red Phosphorus (Matches/Road Flares)  
 Salt (Table/Rock) • Iodine (Teat Dip or Flakes/Crystal)  
 Lithium (Batteries) • Trichloroethane (Gun Scrubber)  
 MSM (Cutting Agent) • Sodium Metal Methanol/Alcohol  
 (Gasoline Additives) • Muriatic Acid Anhydrous  
 Ammonia (Farm Fertilizer) • Sodium Hydroxide (Lye)  
 Pseudoephedrine (Cold Tablets) • Ephedrine (Cold  
 Tablets) • Acetone • Kitty Litter