



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICE

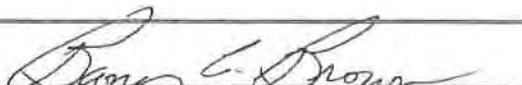
SUITE 900 - JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0334

TDOT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE - ENVIRONMENTAL

NO.
008

Subject: **METHAMPHETAMINE LAB WASTE**

Reviewed and
approved by:


Barry Brown, PE

25-02-17

Date

Facilities and MS4/TSCS Program Manager, TDOT Environmental Compliance Office



5.5.17

Date

Toks Omishakin
Environmental Bureau Chief, TDOT Environmental Planning Bureau

Status: Revised and re-approved with no significant changes.

Version 4 – Replaces
Version 3 dated April 2016

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Methamphetamine abuse has become a national epidemic. Production of this drug, which is more addictive than cocaine, is particularly prevalent in the Southeast, with the number of clandestine labs increasing rapidly. In addition to the obvious dangers associated with using this drug, the production process is fraught with hazards (i.e., fire, explosion) and involves the generation of hazardous wastes. For instance, for every pound of methamphetamine produced, five to seven pounds of hazardous wastes are produced. Furthermore, as these wastes may be disposed of in areas maintained by TDOT (e.g., rest areas, welcome centers, and roadsides), employees have the potential to encounter them. As such, extreme caution should be exercised at all times, and employees should possess a basic understanding of the nature of these wastes and what to do if such wastes are encountered.

2.0 WHERE TO LOOK

Although methamphetamine lab wastes could be encountered just about anywhere, some of the more likely locations include the following:

- In dumpsters and/or trash cans at rest stops
- In parking areas
- Along highway right-of-ways (ROWs)
- Underneath bridges
- In wooded areas

Whenever working in and around these areas, employees should recognize that these wastes could be encountered and respond appropriately to protect themselves, their co-workers, and the public.

3.0 WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Substances and supplies associated with methamphetamine production may include the following:

- Rubbing alcohol
- Brake cleaner (toluene)
- Engine starter (ether)
- Drain cleaner (sulfuric acid)
- Muriatic acid
- Lye (sodium hydroxide)
- Paint thinner
- Acetone
- Trichloroethane
- Iodine
- MSM (horse supplement)
- Fertilizer (anhydrous ammonia)
- Camping fuel
- Matches/road flares (red phosphorus)
- Rock or table salt
- Jugs, bottles, buckets, gas cans
- Propane cylinders
- Glassware (e.g., funnels/beakers)
- Hotplates
- Blenders
- Thermometers
- Rubber tubing sand gloves
- Tape and clamps
- Aluminum foil
- Ice chests/plastic storage containers
- Measuring cups
- Cat litter
- Paper towels/coffee filters
- Bed sheets/cheesecloth
- Cold tablets (Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine)

It is important to note that most of the items listed above are commonly used over-the-counter materials, encountered on a regular basis in a variety of situations. Thus, in general, it is not the mere presence of a small quantity of one or two of the items listed above that is cause for concern. Rather, it is the presence of combinations of these items in larger quantities. In particular, large amounts of certain materials, such as drain cleaner, camping fuel, cold medicine packaging, acetone containers, and modified propane cylinders, should be treated with extreme caution. In fact, caution should be exercised in all circumstances where these types of items are encountered.

In addition to visual indications, certain odors may indicate the presence of methamphetamine lab wastes. For instance, strong chemical odors like ammonia, ether, acetone, or cat urine are potential indicators of the presence of such wastes. These wastes are sometimes contained in boxes or garbage bags, which may not make them easily recognizable. Caution should be used when picking up unknown boxes or bags from highway ROWs or public trash receptacles. Though this material may appear harmless, there may be hazardous residues present.

4.0 HOW TO RESPOND

Methamphetamine lab waste can pose a serious explosion and/or fire threat and, as such, these wastes must always be treated as dangerous. The following precautions should be taken:

1. DO NOT attempt to handle suspected methamphetamine lab waste.
2. Contact local law enforcement officials immediately for
 - a. safety reasons, and
 - b. so that any potential forensic evidence can be gathered.
3. TDOT employees are NOT to handle identified methamphetamine lab waste under any circumstances.
4. Trained first responders and cleanup professionals, who are familiar with the hazards associated with this type of waste, are the only personnel who should handle this waste.