

# Employees/Home Visitors Safety Tips



Methamphetamine is a dangerous drug that poses serious health and environmental dangers. The drug can be manufactured cheaply using household and agricultural chemicals that are very toxic and can explode or ignite without warning. Individuals who work in or near homes where a meth lab is present are extremely vulnerable and at high risk for injury.

## BEFORE YOU GO

- Communicate your schedule route to your supervisor. Notify your office of your arrival.
- Carry only your ID, a cell phone and/or pager, keys and items necessary to your work.
- Do not wear clothes and shoes that impede movement.
- Wear a name badge if you have one, but don't wear it around your neck. A clip-on ID is best.
- Ensure that you have obtained as much information about your client as possible.
- If possible, canvass the area around the home's address. Assess potential safety concerns and take precautions.

## UPON ARRIVAL

- Park within direct sight of the home's entry. Park in well-lit, unobstructed area. Don't park in driveway of the home.
- Be aware of any drug paraphernalia in the area surrounding the home.
- Keep your hands as free as possible. Do not be distracted by talking on cell phone. Carry personal alarm if feasible.

## SAFETY DURING THE VISIT

- Present yourself calm, confident, observant and in control.
- Position yourself between the client and an exit.
- Sit in a hard-backed chair.
- Have an excuse to leave prepared in advance.
- Be aware of your surroundings and leave if your instincts tell you to.
- Pay particular attention to the client's protectiveness relating to certain rooms of the home.
- Leave immediately if you smell chemicals.

## INDICATORS OF METH USE

- Hyperactivity and compulsiveness
- Aggressive and violent behavior
- Paranoia and hallucinations
- Restlessness/agitation
- Dilated pupils
- Talkativeness

For more information on meth and related concerns, contact the  
Indiana Meth Watch Program.  
(877) 855-METH

# Possible Meth Lab Activity

## UNUSUAL SECURITY/VENTILATION MEASURES

- Baby room monitors being used outdoors
- Video surveillance systems to observe the exterior of home
- Elaborate fencing and heavy duty locks when it is not evident what is being secured
- Fans positioned to ventilate the home
- Night vision equipment
- Protective, aggressive dogs
- Windows blacked out or covered
- Weapons and booby traps

## METH PRODUCTION CHEMICAL ODORS

- Ether-like: Aromatic, sweet odor often accompanied by a sweet taste. Sometimes described as a "hospital odor."  
**Nasal irritant.**
- Solvent-like: Sweet odor from common solvents used in paint thinners, paint removers, adhesives, and cleaning fluids. Type of odor often found in an auto body shop.  
**Eye and nasal irritant.**
- Ammonia-like: An intense, sharp, irritating odor similar to but much stronger than that from wet diapers, glass cleaners, cattle feedlots or fertilizers. **Eye and nasal irritant.**

## ADDITIONAL INDICATORS OF METH LAB

- Reddish stained coffee filters, canning jars with multi-colored liquids, aquarium-type tubing used in bottles or jugs
- Battery casings, crumpled/burnt foil
- Light bulbs with filament removed
- Bottles with clear tubing in the cap

## LARGE AMOUNTS OF INGREDIENTS

- Cold and allergy medicine
- Anhydrous ammonia
- Lithium batteries
- Gas-line additive
- Table or rock salt
- Sidewalk deicer
- Drain cleaner
- Starting fluid
- Camping fuel
- Matchbooks
- Iodine



If you suspect meth production, leave the home immediately and contact your local law enforcement agency

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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