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# Cleanup of Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs Guidance Document



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of Public Health  
and Environment

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division  
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## Purpose of this Guidance

*This is intended as general guidance for homeowners, landlords, tenants, hotel/motel owners and others to assist in cleaning up ~~former~~ methamphetamine ~~laboratory~~~~production~~ sites. This guidance is not meant to modify or replace the Regulations Pertaining to the Cleanup of Methamphetamine Laboratories, 6 CCR 1014-3, (the Regulation) or local requirements ~~or guidance~~. In the event of a conflict between this guidance and the Regulation or local requirements, the Regulation~~local requirements~~ takes precedence, followed by local requirements. This guidance seeks to provide advice in cleaning up contamination most frequently associated with methamphetamine production and does not address every possible situation. If a situation is not described in the guidance or clarification is desired, please contact your local health, ~~zoning~~ or building department, or the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division.*

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## CLEANUP OF CLANDESTINE METHAMPHETAMINE LABS

### INTRODUCTION

Clandestine methamphetamine (meth) laboratories have been a growing problem throughout Colorado and across the United States. ~~In Colorado alone, the number of meth lab seizures reported by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has increased dramatically over the past three years: 150 in 1999, 264 in 2000, and 452 in 2001.~~

Typically after a lab is discovered by law enforcement, the bulk of any lab-related materials ~~debris~~, such as chemicals and containers, are ~~is~~ removed. However, contamination may be left on surfaces and in absorbent materials (carpets, furniture), sinks, drains and ventilation systems. Though often found in small amounts, meth lab contaminants may pose health threats to persons exposed to them. Table 1 provides a list of chemicals commonly associated with meth labs ~~in Colorado~~, their health effects, and occupational exposure limits.

In response to increased concerns over the contamination left behind at meth labs, in 2004 the Colorado Legislature passed House Bill 04-1182 (§ 25-18.5-101 C.R.S., et. seq.), which sets forth the requirement that meth labs be cleaned up in accordance with cleanup standards established by the State Board of Health, or in lieu of cleanup the property owner may elect to demolish the property. The Regulations Pertaining to the Cleanup of Methamphetamine Laboratories, Board of Health Regulation 6 CCR 1014-3 (the “Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation” or the “Regulation”), which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/boardofhealth/101403methlabrules.pdf>, includes cleanup procedures as well as specific cleanup levels. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (the Department) has put together the following guidance to assist local agencies, property owners, and the general public in addressing contamination at former meth labs and complying with the Regulation.

Chemicals associated with other drug manufacturing methods are not specifically addressed in this document. In addition, as the availability of precursor chemicals is restricted by law enforcement, and as meth manufacturers become more creative, chemicals not listed in Table 1 may be used as alternatives. In all cases, whether dealing with a meth lab or other drug manufacturing, the inventory of chemicals discovered at the site will dictate the precautions taken by the first responders, and the measures necessary for site cleanup. In general, the cleanup procedures discussed in this document should be sufficient to address most chemicals associated with drug lab sites; however, the presence of exotic chemicals should be discussed with the Department and the local regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup.

### STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ~~ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS~~

§ 25-18.5-101 through 105 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) provides the statutory framework that supports the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation. The statute includes a provision that a property owner who cleans up a property in accordance with the Regulations will have immunity from civil lawsuits by future owners, occupants, or neighbors for alleged health-based losses related to the meth lab. Verification testing must be conducted by a Certified Industrial Hygienist or industrial hygienist as defined by § 24-30-1402, C.R.S., and a copy of the results must be provided to the Governing Body, in order for immunity to be established. The term Governing Body is defined in § 25-18-5-101, C.R.S. as the agency or office designated by the city council or county commissioners where the property is

located. If there is no such designation, the Governing Body is the health department, building department, and law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the property.

In accordance with § 25-18.5-104, C.R.S., the owner of the property is required to restrict access to contaminated property, and only allow entrance to individuals who are properly trained or certified to handle contaminated property in accordance with the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulations or Federal law. In addition, § 25-18.5-105 C.R.S., declares that meth lab properties that have not met the requirements of the Regulation shall be deemed a public health nuisance. As discussed below, this designation triggers additional authorities for local agencies to require that the property be secured and properly cleaned up.

The statute does not establish a regulatory oversight program for the cleanup of meth labs; however, it does provide local agencies designated as Governing Bodies the authority to enact ordinances and resolutions to enforce the statute. The Governing Body does not have a duty to establish an oversight program or to require cleanup. Therefore, the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation was written such that it can be self-implementing, providing a clear and detailed process to ensure that the property is properly decontaminated and that adequate documentation of the decontamination process is provided to support the immunity from civil lawsuits provided by the statute.

The statute does not include a mechanism to ensure that cleanup contractors or industrial hygienists are qualified to perform, or be experienced in, meth lab cleanup. Governing Bodies that have established a cleanup oversight program may assist a property owner in evaluating whether or not a contractor or consultant is qualified; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the property owner to verify the qualifications and experience of contractors and industrial hygienists.

~~Although the Department does not have a meth lab cleanup oversight program, There is no current state statute that specifically authorizes state or local agencies to require the decontamination of the interior of private properties contaminated by clandestine meth lab activities. However, certain authorities exist in nuisance statutes, regulations and ordinances and in various codes commonly adopted by local government agencies that may be used in appropriate circumstances to require cleanup. Tit he Department has broad environmental protection authorities to require cleanup of contamination in outdoor areas, in appropriate circumstances, under water quality, solid waste and/or hazardous waste statutes and regulations.~~

### **Local Health Authorities**

In addition to the authority to require and oversee meth lab cleanup established in § 25-18.5-105(2), C.R.S., there are other local authorities that can be used to enforce cleanup requirements. Some local agencies require clean up actions using the statutory authority to address nuisances found in Part 5, 6 and 7 of Article 1 Title 25 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. This empowers local boards of health to abate public health nuisances. ~~Local agencies may want to evaluate whether such authorities exist in their jurisdiction.~~ Another nuisance statute that may be useful is Part 3 of Article 13, Title 16 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, which deals with Abatement of Public Nuisance. Section 16-13-303 includes a specific provision classifying buildings, vehicles and real property that are used in connection with crimes related to illegal drugs as Class 1 public nuisances.

Some local health departments rely on building departments to initiate and require the clean up of the property and to not allow re-occupancy until the requirements of the Regulation local “clean up standards” are met ~~as determined by the health officer. Whether this is possible in your area depends~~

~~on what has been adopted into local ordinances.~~ As an example refer to the Uniform Building Code or the Uniform Housing Code (Chapter 10, Substandard Buildings). Other codes that may be used ~~ful~~ include the Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings (Section 302, Item 15), International Building Code (Section 115), or the International Property Maintenance Code (Section 109). Some local health departments assist building departments by determining when unacceptably unhealthy conditions exist for the structure to be considered unsuitable for human habitation and in determining when these conditions are sufficiently reduced.

### **Solid Waste Statutes**

~~There are several sections in the solid waste statute where public nuisance or nuisance conditions are referenced. However, in the context they are used it appears to be a difficult leap to meth lab enforcement.~~

~~A more universal section is 30-20-110(j) of the minimum standards. Section 30-20-110(j) reads: "Such minimum standards shall require the reporting, documentation, or remediation of spills at illegal disposal sites, abandoned disposal sites, or contaminated sites". This section has been used to require cleanup of petroleum and antifreeze spills and could be used to respond to meth lab sites.~~

### **SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES NOT KNOWN TO BE METH LABS**

Many of the properties that are identified as former meth labs are discovered through means other than by law enforcement. Contamination is often discovered during a property assessment in response to health complaints by occupants, information from neighbors regarding a prior occupant, or as part of a Real Estate transaction. Screening assessments are often conducted in these cases to gain information regarding potential meth lab contamination at the property. Although these screening assessments are outside the scope of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, it is recommended that these assessments be conducted by a qualified industrial hygienist. In addition, § 38-35.7-103, C.R.S requires that testing for meth lab contamination related to Real Estate transactions be conducted by an industrial hygienist. A suggested protocol for screening assessments is provided as Attachment 1. It should be noted that screening assessments apply to situations where there is no reason to know of or suspect a meth lab, If the presence of a meth lab is known or suspected, then a Preliminary Assessment must be conducted in accordance with the Regulation.

If the screening assessment confirms that the property is contaminated, then it is subject to the statutory and regulatory requirements for meth lab cleanup. Specifically, § 25-18.5-103, C.R.S. states that "when an illegal drug laboratory used to manufacture methamphetamine is otherwise discovered and the property owner has received notice, the owner of any contaminated property shall meet the cleanup standards for property established by the board in section 25-18.5-102..." the requirements for meth lab cleanup are summarized below.

### **PRELIMINARY SITE ASSESSMENT**

Prior to beginning cleanup of a former meth lab, a preliminary assessment ~~must~~ ~~should~~ be conducted, ~~by a Certified Industrial Hygienist or industrial hygienist as defined in § 24-30-1402, C.R.S. to determine what chemicals are involved, the manufacturing method, and whether the property is fit or unfit for use as is.~~ The preliminary assessments must be conducted in accordance with Section 4.0 of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, and should include:

- Property description including physical address, legal description, number and type of structures present, description of adjacent and/or surrounding properties, and any other observations made.
- Review of available law enforcement reports that provide information regarding the manufacturing method, chemicals present, cooking areas, chemical storage areas, and observed areas of contamination or waste disposal.
- Identification of structural features that may indicate separate functional spaces, such as attics, false ceilings and crawl spaces, basements, closets, and cabinets.
- Identification of manufacturing methods based on observations and law enforcement reports.
- Identification of chemicals used, based on observations, law enforcement reports, and knowledge of manufacturing method(s).
- Identification and documentation of areas of contamination. This identification may be based on visual observation, law enforcement reports, proximity to chemical storage areas, waste disposal areas, or cooking areas, or based on professional judgment of the consultant; or the consultant may determine that assessment sampling is necessary to verify the presence or absence of contamination.
- Identification and documentation of chemical storage areas.
- Identification and documentation of waste disposal areas.
- Identification and documentation of cooking areas.
- Identification and documentation of signs of contamination such as staining, etching, fire damage, or outdoor areas of dead vegetation.
- Inspection of plumbing system integrity and identification and documentation of potential disposal into the sanitary sewer or an individual sewage disposal system (ISDS).
- Identification of adjacent units and common areas where contamination may have spread or been tracked.
- Identification and documentation of common ventilation systems with adjacent units or common areas.
- Photographic documentation of property conditions, including cooking areas, chemical storage areas, waste disposal areas, and areas of obvious contamination.

In accordance with Section 6.0 of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, sampling is required during the preliminary assessment unless the area is deemed to be contaminated based on data other than assessment sampling. In other words, if the area is assumed to be contaminated, sampling is not required. In contrast, once a property has been designated a meth lab, an area can only be deemed not contaminated through sampling.

If drug manufacture methods are suspected to have included the use of mercury (typically mercuric chloride) or lead (typically lead acetate), testing for these compounds should be conducted during the preliminary assessment to aide in determining whether additional PPE may be necessary, and if post decontamination sampling for these compounds will be necessary.



In cases of moderate to heavy contamination, indoor air should be field screened for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with a photo ionization detector (PID), flame ionization detector (FID) or similar instrument. Field screening will provide information regarding the concentration of total VOCs in the structure, which is important for monitoring exposures for worker protection. Field screening may also provide information regarding the severity of contamination and the areas to focus cleanup efforts. If there is sufficient concern about residual vapor concentrations after cleanup, indoor air may be tested to determine the concentrations of specific chemicals. There are many meth "recipes" and manufacturing methods. Identifying the chemicals used and the drugs being made at the laboratory will help to determine what kind of chemical sampling may be necessary. The drug lab seizure report and the hazardous material transportation manifest will contain invaluable historical and drug manufacturing method information. From this information, a lab site chemical inventory can be developed. The chemical inventory will help to identify potential chemical hazards and the manufacturing method used.

~~The preliminary assessment should be reviewed by the local health department, or other oversight agency, to evaluate the potential contamination and health risk. The oversight agency will determine whether the property is fit or unfit for use, and whether cleanup or decontamination is necessary. In some areas, this determination may be made by the local building department or other local agency with authority to designate a property as fit or unfit for use. If it is determined that cleanup is necessary, the property owner may wish to contact their insurance company to determine whether property or homeowner's insurance can be used to cover cleanup costs.~~

## **Methods of Manufacturing**

~~The manufacture of meth is fairly simple.~~ Generally, meth is made by using a "recipe" obtained from acquaintances, publications or other sources. The person manufacturing the drug literally "cooks" the ingredients. Hence these people are called "cooks." Though there are a number of methods used to produce this drug, the two most common methods currently found in Colorado include the Red Phosphorus and Birch methods. Both use ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as a primary ingredient. These chemicals are present in many common over-the-counter cold and asthma medications.

### Red Phosphorus Method

The Red Phosphorus Method is also called "Red P," "HI" Method, or the Red, White and Blue Method. Chemicals commonly associated with this method include hydriodic acid (HI), hydrochloric (muratic) acid, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide (lye), sodium chloride (salt), red phosphorus, iodine, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol (ethanol), methyl alcohol (methanol), hydrogen peroxide, naphtha (Coleman fuel), charcoal lighter fluid (mineral spirits, petroleum distillate), acetone, benzene, toluene, ethyl ether (starting fluid), freon, hydrogen chloride gas, and chloroform. Other chemicals that may be used include acetic acid, methyl-ethyl-ketone (MEK), and hypophosphorus acid. Wastes generated during manufacturing include potentially flammable extraction process sludges, phosphine gas, hydriodic acid, hydrogen chloride gas, phosphoric acid, and yellow or white phosphorus.

### Birch Method

The Birch Method is also called the "Ammonia" or "Nazi" Method. Chemicals associated with this method include anhydrous ammonia, lithium metal, sodium metal, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol (ethanol), methyl alcohol (methanol), hydrogen chloride gas, hydrochloric (muratic) acid, sulfuric acid,

sodium chloride (salt), toluene, naphtha, freon, ethyl ether, chloroform, and methyl-ethyl-ketone (MEK). Wastes generated include potentially flammable extraction process sludges and hydrogen chloride gas.

### Other Methods

Other methods to manufacture meth include the amalgam method, which primarily uses phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) and methylamine. Other chemicals associated with this method include mMercuric chloride, acetic acid, acetic anhydride, lead acetate, phenylacetic acid, pyridine, aluminum, benzaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, isopropyl alcohol, nitroethane, methanol, ethanol, acetone, benzene, chloroform and ether ~~are also associated with this manufacturing method.~~

### **Areas of Contamination**

Potential areas of contamination can be divided into primary and secondary areas. Typical primary areas of contamination include:

- **Processing or "cooking" areas:** Gross contamination in these areas may be caused by spills, boil-overs, explosions, or by chemical fumes and gases created during the heating and distilling portions of the "cooking" process. Indoor areas affected may include floors, walls, ceilings, ~~used glassware and containers,~~ working surfaces, furniture, carpeting, draperies and other textile products, plumbing fixtures and drains, or heating and air-conditioning vents. Outdoor cooking areas could involve picnic tables, camping stoves, or other outdoor areas where cooking could occur.
- **Disposal areas:** Indoor areas include sinks, toilets, bathtubs, crawl spaces, plumbing traps and floor drains, vents, vent fans and chimney flues. Outdoor areas may include soil, surface water, groundwater, dumpsters, sewer or storm systems, septic systems and cesspools.
- **Storage areas:** Contamination may be caused by leaks, spills or open containers.

Secondary areas of contamination may include:

- Locations where contamination has migrated, such as hallways or high-traffic areas.
- Common areas in multiple dwelling structures and adjacent apartments or rooms may also be contaminated, including contamination of floors, walls, ceilings, furniture, carpeting and other contents, ~~light fixtures, blinds, draperies and other textile products.~~
- Common ventilation or plumbing systems in hotels and multiple dwellings.

## CLEANUP PROCEDURES FOR STRUCTURES AND VEHICLES

The removal of lab chemicals and equipment must be conducted by properly trained and equipped law enforcement and/or a hazardous materials (hazmat) cleanup team. After a property site has been secured and no longer subject to criminal investigation, appropriately trained and equipped personnel should be hired to cleanup any remaining contaminated materials. If suspicious containers or lab equipment are found on a property, untrained personnel should leave the area and contact the local fire department or law enforcement agency.

~~Since there is no statutory authority for the Department to establish uniform cleanup standards for the interior of private properties, site specific cleanup requirements should be developed in consultation with the local health department (refer to the Post Cleanup Assessment for Structures and Re-occupancy of Structures sections, following). In rare cases of severe contamination, effective cleanup may only be accomplished by demolition of the contaminated structure. In most situations, Cleanup/decontamination must be conducted in accordance with the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, by a qualified cleanup contractor who is independent of the industrial hygienist performing the preliminary assessment and clearance sampling will involve one or more of the following measures.~~ Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times during the cleanup. The cleanup process will involve the following measures:

### **Air Filtrationing-Out**

~~When solvents and other chemicals that may have soaked into the walls or furnishings are slowly volatilizing indoors, proper ventilation may safely reduce contamination and decrease odors. Venting should be conducted for several days before cleanup begins to allow volatile compounds to be dispersed, and good ventilation should be maintained during all phases of the cleanup. Care must be taken to ensure that vented contaminants are exhausted to the outdoors and not to the air intakes of adjacent structures. Windows should be opened and exhaust fans set up to circulate air out of the structure. During this time, the property should remain off limits unless it is absolutely necessary to make short visits to the property. In some cases it may be beneficial to raise the indoor air temperature to approximately 85° Fahrenheit for 48 to 72 hours to enhance volatilization. This should be done only after an initial period of venting, and after all bulk chemicals have been removed from the property. Monitoring of the indoor atmosphere should be conducted to ensure that vapor levels do not approach a level that would pose an explosion hazard (lower explosive limit).~~

~~After clean up, the property should be aired out for three to five days. Then the property should be checked for re-staining or odors, either of which would indicate that the initial cleaning was not successful and that more extensive steps should be taken.~~

A negative air unit, equipped with a HEPA filtration system, shall be used throughout the decontamination process to reduce airborne particulates and limit the migration of contaminants that are disturbed during the decontamination process.

### **Gross Cleanup**

Cleanup and decontamination should be completed under the direction of trained personnel. Residual powders and liquids should be tested to determine their corrosivity, toxicity, and flammability. In cases where acids or bases are known to be sources of contamination, the potential for harmful effects may be reduced or removed through neutralization. Acids may be neutralized with solutions of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), and bases may be neutralized by using weakly acidic solutions of vinegar or acetic acid in water. Solids should be scooped up and packaged for disposal. Liquids can be absorbed

with clay (kitty litter or floor sweep) or other non-reactive material and packaged for disposal. If the property is on a septic tank system, the tank should be evaluated, and if necessary, the liquid in the tank should be tested to determine if it contains meth lab related chemicals. If meth lab chemicals are present, the contents of the tank should be disposed of as either a solid or hazardous waste, based on the results of analysis. Analysis of the septic tank contents should be conducted in accordance with Appendix D of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulations, and should be based on chemicals determined to be part of the lab site chemical inventory (developed as part of the preliminary assessment).

~~During the meth cooking process, vapors are given off that can spread and be absorbed by nearby materials. Spilled chemicals, supplies and equipment can further contaminate non-lab items. It is a good idea to remove items that are visibly contaminated or have odors.~~

## Removal

During the meth cooking process, vapors are given off that can spread and be absorbed by nearby materials. Spilled chemicals, supplies and equipment can further contaminate non-lab items. Section 5.0 of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation requires removal and proper disposal of all material that will not or cannot be decontaminated to the cleanup levels specified in Section 7.0 of Regulation, and discussed later in this guidance.

Visibly contaminated (etched or stained) sinks, bathtubs, and toilets are difficult to clean and may need to be removed and replaced. Absorbent materials, such as carpeting, drapes, furnishings, wallpaper, clothing, etc., can absorb vapors and may collect dust and powder from the chemicals involved in the manufacturing process. Some absorbent materials can be safely washed or cleaned by other methods if they exhibit little to no odor or staining, but many stained materials or those with odors will have to be disposed of in a solid waste landfill, ~~with prior approval according to the type and degree of contamination~~. Generally, cleaning costs for these items exceed replacement costs. Prior to transporting waste to a landfill, the facility should be notified that the waste stream is from a former meth lab so that the landfill can take the proper measures to handle it appropriately.

## Detergent-Water Washing

~~Some~~ Nonporous and semi-porous surfaces (such as floors, counters, tiles, walls and ceilings) can hold contamination from the meth cooking process, especially in those areas where the cooking and preparation were performed. Cleaning these areas is very important as people may come in frequent contact with these surfaces through skin contact, food preparation, etc. If a surface has visible contamination or staining, complete removal and replacement of that surface section is recommended. This could include removal and replacement of wallboard, floor coverings and counters. If this is not possible, intensive cleaning with a detergent-water solution ~~or steam cleaning is recommended~~ must be conducted. Methanol, ~~and~~ isopropyl alcohol, and hydrogen peroxide solutions may also be used, but should only be used in a well-ventilated area, and with appropriate PPE. ~~Used wash water should be tested and disposed of properly. Analysis should be based on chemicals determined to be part of the lab site chemical inventory (developed as part of the preliminary assessment).~~ With approval from the local publicly owned treatment works (POTW), it may be possible to discharge the wash water into the sanitary sewer.

Cleaning of porous materials that are not discarded will usually consist of vacuuming using a machine equipped with a HEPA filtration system, followed by hot water detergent scrubbing. Non-washable materials, such as lined curtains, that are not heavily contaminated can be steam-cleaned. ~~In cases of~~

~~mild to moderate contamination, pre-testing should not be necessary, if the cleanup protocol includes through detergent cleaning. If property owners wish to avoid cleaning or disposal of goods, pre-testing will generally be required. Depending on the material, a sample of fabric may need to be collected for laboratory analysis.~~ Confirmation samples must be collected to demonstrate that decontamination has successfully reduced contamination to below the cleanup levels. Samples must be collected in accordance with the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, Section 5.8.3 and Appendix A.

## Ventilation System

Ventilation systems tend to collect fumes and dust and redistribute them throughout a structure. The vents, ductwork, filters and even the walls and ceilings near ventilation ducts can become contaminated. Ventilation systems must be decontaminated in accordance with the procedures presented in Appendix C of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation. All air filters in the system should be replaced, vents should be removed and cleaned, the system's ductwork should be cleaned, and surfaces near inlets and outlets should be cleaned.

In motels, apartments, row-houses or other multiple-family dwellings, a ventilation system may serve more than one unit or structure. These connections must be considered when evaluating cleanup and testing procedures. One strategy is to take samples from adjacent or connected areas/rooms/units, working outward from the lab site until samples show low levels or no contamination.

## Encapsulation or Sealing

After porous or semi-porous surfaces have been cleaned, and post-decontamination sampling verifies that cleanup levels have been achieved, interior surfaces (e.g., walls, wood flooring, ceilings, and paneling) ~~can should~~ be painted with an oil-based paint, epoxy, or other material suitable to create a physical barrier capable of preventing contact with, or volatilization of, any remaining contaminants. It is important to note that the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation prohibits encapsulation until the cleanup levels have been met. ~~Complete coverage may require more than one coat. The painted areas should be monitored and the barrier maintained to assure that the contamination is contained. If staining, odors or discoloration appear after the coating dries, further cleaning or removal and replacement of the surface may be necessary.~~

## Plumbing

Waste products generated during meth manufacturing are often dumped down sinks, drains and toilets. These waste products can collect in drains, traps and septic tanks, and can give off fumes. If staining is noted around sinks, toilets or tubs, or if a strong chemical odor is coming from household plumbing, the local POTW should be advised that chemicals associated with meth production might have been disposed of down the sanitary sewer. Do not conduct any invasive measures to eliminate the odors. If air reactive chemicals (such as phosphorus or lithium metal) are present, exposure of these chemicals to air may result in ignition. The plumbing system should be flushed with generous amounts of water to reduce the concentration of residual chemicals. ~~If contamination of a septic tank or leach field is suspected, contact the local health department or environmental health service to determine if the local~~ an Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) (i.e., septic system) is present, it must be inspected, and if necessary, sampled in accordance with Appendix D of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation ~~Regulations address such an issue.~~

## Personal Belongings

~~If residence of the structure need to remove~~ Personal items that will not be disposed of, they should ~~do so only after the items have~~ must been properly decontaminated, and sampled to demonstrate that cleanup levels have been achieved. As with household items, personal items that are visibly stained are hard to clean and may need to be properly disposed of~~discarded~~. Items such as clothing, that are not visibly stained, can be laundered one or more times to remove any residual chemicals. Non-porous and semi-porous items should be decontaminated using a detergent-water wash, or similar cleaning method, as described above. As required by § 25-18.5-103(3), a person who removes personal property from a meth lab must secure the property, to prevent theft or exposure to others, until the property is appropriately disposed of or properly decontaminated.

## POST CLEANUP ASSESSMENT FOR STRUCTURES AND VEHICLES

After complete cleanup, small amounts of residual chemicals may remain. Cleanup and Post decontamination sampling of former meth labs ~~must~~should be conducted ~~under the supervision of a properly qualified person such as~~ by a Certified Industrial Hygienist or industrial hygienist as defined in § 24-30-1402, C.R.S. Sampling must be conducted in accordance with the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, Section 6.0 and Appendix A, and should be ~~Decisions regarding the sampling plan can be made~~ based on the preliminary assessment information, chemicals used and duration of lab operation, the apparent extent and severity of contamination, and professional judgment. ~~Variations of the cleanup and testing process may include:~~

- ~~Sampling alone may be necessary when pre-cleaning samples indicate low levels or no contamination in some areas.~~
- ~~In areas of moderate to heavy contamination, cleanup may be carried out without previous sampling if post-cleanup sampling will be conducted.~~
- ~~In areas of obviously mild contamination, cleanup may be done without post-cleanup sampling, based on best judgment and adjacent sampling results.~~
- ~~Pre and post-cleanup testing should be done if drug manufacture methods are suspected to have included the use of mercury (typically mercuric chloride) or lead (typically lead acetate).~~

~~After complete cleanup, small amounts of residual chemicals may remain. Post-cleanup sampling should be conducted after residual cleanup and/or the encapsulant has cured. This assessment should include sampling for meth residues on surfaces using a wipe sample. Wipe samples of hard surfaces will indicate levels of contamination on those surfaces and may also be the best indicator of the contamination in adjacent fabrics and other soft furnishings. The procedure for collecting a wipe sample is included as Attachment 1. This procedure is in accordance with the OSHA Technical Manual ([http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/otm\\_ii/otm\\_ii\\_2.html](http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/otm_ii/otm_ii_2.html)) 3.~~

If the amalgam (P2P) method was used, testing ~~must~~should also include airborne mercury ~~and lead~~, and surface sampling for lead, unless sampling conducted during the preliminary assessment demonstrates that these compounds are not present. ~~Risk-based exposure limits for lead and mercury are provided in Table 2.~~ Bear in mind that the possibility of obtaining false positives for lead and

mercury exists because these materials used to be commonly added to paints. Homes built before 1978 may test positive for lead and homes built before 1990 may test positive for mercury.

In addition to the cleanup levels discussed below, Appendix A of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation includes minimum sampling criteria that must be met in order to demonstrate that a meth lab has been adequately cleaned up, or that a property is not contaminated above the standards during a preliminary assessment. For instance, the requirements for clearance sampling include a minimum amount of area to be sampled, as well as a minimum number of discrete samples:

For any structure of no greater than 1,500 ft<sup>2</sup>, where a meth lab has been identified, at least 1,000 cm<sup>2</sup> of total surface area must be sampled. At least three discrete samples must be collected. The remaining required sampling area may be sampled using either discrete or composite samples, but a minimum of five samples must be collected (a composite sample is considered to be one sample). An additional 100 cm<sup>2</sup> must be sampled for each additional 500 ft<sup>2</sup> of structural floor space. If the structure is made up of more than one functional space, at least 500 cm<sup>2</sup> of surface must be sampled for each functional space. Therefore, the required clearance sampling for a 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup> structure with two functional spaces would include a minimum sample area of 1,100 cm<sup>2</sup>, with at least 500 cm<sup>2</sup> sampled in each of the functional spaces. As noted above there must be at least five samples collected, including a minimum of three discrete samples.

The Regulation also includes criteria for collecting composite samples, and requirements for clearance sampling of vehicles.

~~In cases of moderate to heavy contamination, indoor air should be field screened, before and after cleaning, for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with a photo ionization detector (PID), flame ionization detector (FID) or similar instrument to determine that the lab has been cleaned to reasonable background levels (concentration similar to ambient outdoor air). Field screening will provide information regarding the concentration of total VOCs in the structure, which is important for monitoring exposures for worker protection. Field screening may also provide information regarding the severity of contamination and the areas to focus cleanup efforts. If there is sufficient concern about residual vapor concentrations after cleanup, indoor air may be tested to determine the concentrations of specific chemicals. In most cases, indoor air testing may not be necessary as long as an adequate cleanup has been performed. Due to the possibility of detecting background levels of commonly used household chemicals, the presence of residual meth lab related chemicals may be hard to distinguish. Because of the potential problem of background interference, and the relatively high cost associated with collecting and analyzing indoor air samples, the use of indoor air concentrations may not be the most practical way to evaluate the effectiveness of a cleanup. Sampling surfaces for meth may be a more practical tool to gage the effectiveness of cleanup.~~

~~If indoor air sampling is conducted, it should be performed by an environmental professional, familiar with indoor air sampling techniques, that is capable of interpreting the data and evaluating the potential for background interference. Prior to collecting an indoor air sample for VOCs, the indoor air temperature should be maintained at 70 degrees Fahrenheit or above for a minimum of 24 hours. Indoor air should be sampled for chemicals determined to be part of the lab site chemical inventory (developed as part of the preliminary assessment) and in consultation with the local health department, or other oversight agency. Sampling and testing should be performed using recognized standards and written procedures designed to ensure accuracy, reproducibility, and relevance to onsite contamination.~~

~~Written documentation showing that the cleanup has been completed should be submitted to the local health department, or other agency overseeing the cleanup. The final report should summarize the work performed, present data collected during the post cleanup assessment, and be signed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist, or other qualified environmental professional. The local health department, or other oversight agency, may review the report and determine whether the property is suitable for re-occupancy.~~

### Evaluation of Re-occupancy of StructuresCleanup Levels

In order to determine acceptable risk-based concentrations for meth lab related chemicals, the Department had previously reviewed human exposure reference values for chemicals commonly associated with meth production (see Attachment 1). Many of these chemicals are well studied and have established concentrations that are thought to be protective under a residential exposure scenario. However, to date, no health-based value for meth has been developed.

~~This evaluation included acute (based on high-level, short term exposures), and chronic (based on low-level, long term exposures) minimum risk levels. Acute minimum risk levels may be useful for evaluating high level exposures, such as those associated with the meth cooking process or direct exposure to meth related chemicals prior to gross cleanup (as described previously). Chronic minimum risk levels may be appropriate for evaluating long term exposure to residual levels of meth related chemicals, after gross cleanup has been conducted. Therefore, chronic minimum risk levels were used to develop proposed exposure limits for residual meth lab related chemicals, as shown in Table 2. The evaluation process used to develop the proposed exposure limits is described in Attachment 2. Acute exposure limits from the NIOSH Pocket Guide are provided in Table 1 for select meth lab related chemicals.~~

~~Several other states have established cleanup standards specifically for the residue of meth. After communicating with some of these state health departments, it was learned that these levels are not health-based. The meth cleanup levels are based on what is believed to be conservative and protective, while at the same time achievable by clean up contractors. Currently, there is not sufficient information available regarding the effects of long term exposure to low concentrations of meth to adequately evaluate chronic minimum risk levels. Therefore, the Department is unable to provide a health based exposure limit for meth at this time.~~In order to support the selection of a cleanup level for meth in Colorado, an evaluation was conducted to reconcile what is currently known about the health effects of meth with the technology based cleanup standards adopted by several other states. This evaluation, which is available at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/methlabcleanuplevelsupport.pdf> is summarized below.

Three technology based concentrations were evaluated; 0.5 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.1 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup> and 0.05 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Using a model developed to assess the exposure dose correlated with a known wipe concentration, it was predicted that a one-year old infant would have the highest daily dose on a body weight basis to residual meth on household surfaces. These doses were predicted to range from 0.00004 to 0.0004 mg/kg-day depending on which cleanup standard was input into the exposure model.

Reference doses (RfDs) were provisionally identified from the available toxicity literature for use in comparing the estimated intake to an infant. The RfDs based on endpoints varying from neurotoxicity to developmental and reproductive toxicity ranged from 0.004 to 0.01 mg/kg-day. It is important to recognize that the RfDs developed for the evaluation were not intended to represent State approved



RfDs but were merely presented to provide a frame of reference for potential health effects from exposure to meth.

Based on the evaluation, all three of the technology based cleanup standards for meth that were evaluated are anticipated to be health protective of residents of former meth laboratories. The level of protectiveness demonstrated in the evaluation ranged from 10 to 100-fold at cleanup concentrations of 0.5 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup> and 0.05 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Allowing for an extra measure of protectiveness can help account for some of the uncertainties that are inherent in the evaluation process. For example, by applying a cleanup standard as a “not to exceed” standard, the average concentration of meth that may be present after cleanup would be anticipated to be lower than the cleanup standard itself.

### Cleanup Levels

In accordance with Section 7.0 of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, the following cleanup levels shall be used to determine if a property has been adequately decontaminated. They may also be used during the preliminary assessment to demonstrate that a property, or portion of a property, is not contaminated. All properties must meet the cleanup level for meth. Additional cleanup levels that may be applied to a property shall be based on information gained during the preliminary assessment.

- Surface wipe samples and vacuum samples for methamphetamine shall not exceed a concentration of 0.5 µg /100 cm<sup>2</sup>.
  - If composite samples are collected, the cleanup level above must be divided by the number of aliquots (individual samples) that make up the composite sample to determine the adjusted cleanup level used for “hot spot” screening. For example, if four individual samples are collected to make up a composite sample, then the adjusted cleanup level would be 0.125 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- If there is evidence of iodine contamination on materials or surfaces that will not be removed, surface wipe samples for iodine shall not exceed a concentration of 22 µg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- If the preliminary assessment indicates the phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) method of meth manufacturing was used, surface wipe samples for lead shall not exceed a concentration of 40 µg /ft<sup>2</sup>, and vapor samples for mercury shall not exceed a concentration of 1.0 µg /m<sup>3</sup>.
- The investigation and cleanup of outdoor contamination, including soil, surface water and groundwater, shall be conducted in accordance with the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations, the Colorado Solid Waste Regulations, and Water Quality Control Commission Regulations 31 and 41.

It is important to note that due to the cost and technical challenges of testing for various meth lab related chemicals, post decontamination concentrations of meth are used as an indicator to help gage the effectiveness of the cleanup. As discussed previously, there are difficulties related to testing and evaluating the concentrations of meth related chemicals in indoor air. Therefore, the use of meth testing to evaluate the effectiveness of cleanup may be more practical than the use of indoor air concentrations of other associated chemicals. In order to provide a practical measurement to determine the adequacy of cleanup, the Department evaluated the cleanup standards used by several other states. The cleanup levels for meth range from 5 ug/ft<sup>2</sup> to 0.5 ug/ft<sup>2</sup>. Based upon limited

~~information now available, the 0.5 ug/ft<sup>2</sup> standard appears to be the most conservative approach.~~ ~~In addition, This is based on the theory that~~ -the cleanup process necessary to reduce the levels of meth to 0.5 ~~u~~ug/ft<sup>2</sup> should also be capable of reducing the concentrations of other meth related chemicals to acceptable levels. Testing for a limited suite of chemicals may be appropriate for “piece labs” that produce only pre-cursors or do limited production steps, since meth may not be present at these labs.

## **FINAL REPORT**

A final report must be prepared by the industrial hygienist to document the decontamination process and demonstrate that the property has been decontaminated to the cleanup levels listed in Section 7.0 of the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation, and discussed above. In accordance with the Section 8.0 of the Regulation, the final report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Property description including physical address, legal description, ownership, number and type of structures present, description of adjacent and/or surrounding properties, and any other observations made.
- Description of manufacturing methods and chemicals used, based on observations, law enforcement reports and knowledge of manufacturing method.
- If available, copies of law enforcement reports that provide information regarding the manufacturing method, chemicals present, cooking areas, chemical storage areas, and observed areas of contamination or waste disposal.
- A description of chemical storage areas, with a figure documenting location(s).
- A description of waste disposal areas, with a figure documenting location(s).
- A description of cooking areas, with a figure documenting location(s).
- A description of areas with signs of contamination such as staining, etching, fire damage, or outdoor areas of dead vegetation, with a figure documenting location(s).
- The results of inspection of plumbing system integrity and identification of sewage disposal mechanism.
- A description of adjacent units and common areas where contamination may have spread or been tracked.
- Identification of common ventilation systems with adjacent units or common areas.
- A description of the sampling procedures used, including sample collection, handling, and QA/QC.
- A description of the analytical methods used and laboratory QA/QC requirements.
- A description of the location and results of initial sampling (if any), including a description of sample locations and a figure with sample locations and identification.
- A description of the health and safety procedures used in accordance with OSHA requirements.
- A description of the decontamination procedures used and a description of each area that was decontaminated.
- A description of the removal procedures used and a description of areas where removal was conducted, and the materials removed.

- A description of the encapsulation procedures used and a description of the areas and/or materials where encapsulation was performed.
- A description of the waste management procedures used, including handling and final disposition of wastes.
- A description of the location and results of post-decontamination samples, including a description of sample locations and a figure with sample locations and identification.
- Photographic documentation of pre- and post-decontamination property conditions, including cooking areas, chemical storage areas, waste disposal areas, areas of obvious contamination, sampling and decontamination procedures, and post-decontamination conditions.
- Consultant statement of qualifications, including professional certification or qualification as an industrial hygienist as defined in § 24-30-1402, C.R.S., and description of experience in assessing contamination associated with methamphetamine labs.
- Certification of procedures and results, and variations from standard practices.
- A signed certification statement in one of the forms provided in Section 8.0 fo the Meth Lab Cleanup Regulation.
- Signature of the consultant.

The property owner and consultant shall each retain a copy of the report for a period of seven years. To obtain the immunity provided in § 25-18.5-103(2), C.R.S., the owner must provide a copy of the report to the Governing Body. It is advisable to submit the report by certified mail, return receipt requested, or some other method that provides an acknowledgement of receipt by the governing body.

~~If the P2P method was used, testing should also include lead and mercury. Other compounds may also be tested for, as deemed necessary based on the preliminary assessment.~~

## **CLEANUP PROCEDURES FOR SOIL, GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER**

If areas of potential outdoor contamination are identified or suspected, further investigation of outdoor contamination may be necessary. Small areas of outdoor contamination may be dealt with by removal or treatment of contaminated soils or water (i.e., small areas of ponded water). Contaminated soil or water removed from the site must be characterized to determine if it contains a characteristic or listed hazardous waste, and must be disposed at an appropriately licensed solid or hazardous waste disposal facility. Analysis should be based on the lab site chemical inventory and manufacturing method used. If large areas of soil, surface water or groundwater contamination are present, characterization and cleanup of these areas should be conducted by a professional environmental contractor, in consultation with the Department's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division. In general, characterization and remediation of soil, surface water or groundwater impacts would include the following:

### **Source Identification**

It is important to tie site characterization to the chemical storage and waste disposal information gathered on the site to ensure that assessment efforts look for potential contaminants in the places they are likely to be. This type of information can be gathered from observations made by law enforcement

or hazmat personnel, or by conducting a site ~~tour~~ inspection to note the property's condition, looking for evidence of contamination such as stained soil or stressed (dead or dying) vegetation.

It is important to evaluate both natural features and manmade structures, such as drainage systems, local topography, utilities, surface water bodies, easements and locations of buildings, because these features can influence the migration of contaminants and restrict access to portions of the site during remedial efforts. This information is used in conjunction with information regarding the subsurface characteristics at the site to evaluate contaminant migration pathways.

The amount of information that may need to be gathered will depend largely upon the characteristics of the release and the local hydrogeology. Relatively immobile contaminants (such as metals or other solids) that may have been released onto the ground surface will require considerably less subsurface data collection than a release involving relatively mobile contaminants (such as solvents). The subsurface characteristics will need to be defined to the degree necessary to provide a clear understanding of potential migration pathways for the purpose of defining the extent of contamination.

### **Sampling ~~a~~ And Analytical Methods**

All samples must be collected using professionally accepted equipment and methods. These are described in either ASTM Phase II environmental site assessment documents or EPA site investigation guidance documents. All samples must be prepared and analyzed in strict accordance with the methods described in EPA's "Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste (SW- 846)" or other method approved by the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division. The SW-846 Manual is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/sw846.htm>. In a limited number of instances, the Division has established alternate procedures that vary from those set forth in SW-846 (e.g., sample preservation and analysis of indoor air samples).

### **Remediation**

The results of the site characterization effort and the desired cleanup goals will define the level of remediation that may be required. Outdoor contamination may be dealt with using one or more of the following measures: 1) waste removal, 2) site controls (e.g., fencing), 3) drainage control, 4) monitoring, and 5) removal or treatment of contaminated soil or water (i.e., surface water or groundwater).

### **Soil Cleanup Levels**

The Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division has established soil cleanup levels for a ~~limited~~ number of chemical compounds associated with meth labs, as provided in Table 3. For compounds that do not have established cleanup levels, a property owner may propose the use of an appropriate cleanup level for soil, using either background concentration, the method detection limit, or a risk-based concentration calculated in accordance with the Division's "Proposed Soil Remediation Objectives Policy Document."

### **Groundwater Cleanup Levels**

Cleanup standards for groundwater may be found in Water Quality Control Commission's Regulation No. 41 "The Basic Standards for Ground Water." A list of State groundwater standards for select compounds associated with meth labs is provided in Table 3.

For those contaminants for which State standards have not been established, the facility may choose to:

- Use EPA's Clean Water Act maximum contaminant levels (MCL) or maximum contaminant level goals (MCLG),
- Calculate a health-based drinking water standard using an MCL-equivalent methodology, or
- Calculate a health-based standard using the Water Quality Control Commission's policy 96-2 "Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria and Standards".

### **Surface Water Cleanup Levels**

In the event that activities have resulted in the contamination of surface water, the remediation goal should be the most stringent of one of the following cleanup levels:

- The appropriate surface water standard, as established by the Department's Water Quality Control Division, for that surface water body. This applies only to those surface water bodies, primarily rivers and interconnected ponds and lakes, for which water quality standards have been established.
- A health-based concentration that is protective of human health using a drinking water exposure scenario (unrestricted use designation).
- A concentration that is protective of aquatic life or other wildlife found in the area.

### **CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

To report a known or suspected meth lab, contact your local law enforcement agency or drug task force.

For general questions regarding meth lab cleanup, call the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division's Customer Technical Assistance line at 303-692-3320 or toll-free at 1-888-569-1831 ext 3320. This number should also be called if you suspect that there may be potential environmental contamination from a meth lab (i.e., disposal to surface waters or dumped on the ground).

[To determine whether or not there is a local oversight program for meth lab cleanup, contact your local health department, building department or law enforcement agency.](#)

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Suspected disposal down the sanitary sewer should be reported to the local wastewater treatment authority. The public works department or other city offices can assist in determining how to contact the local wastewater treatment authority.

For questions regarding health effects of meth lab-related chemicals or by-products, please contact the Department's Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division at 303-692-2700.

## REFERENCES

Corrective Action Guidance Document. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division. May 2002.

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Memorandum: Health Guidance Values and Clean-up Guidelines for Illegal Methamphetamine Labs. Kansas Department of Health and Environment. October 12, 1999.

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. DHSS Publication No. 2001-145. August 2001. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npg.html>

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Proposed Soil Remediation Objectives Policy Document. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division. December 1997.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/soilplcydraft.asp>

[Regulations Pertaining to the Cleanup of Methamphetamine Laboratories \(6 CCR 1014-3\). Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, State Board of Health.](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/boardofhealth/101403methlabrules.pdf)

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[Support for Selection of a Cleanup Level for Methamphetamine at Clandestine Drug Laboratories. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. February 2005.](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/methlabcleanuplevelsupport.pdf)

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The Basic Standards for Ground Water, 41.0 (5 CCR 1002-41). Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/regs/waterregs/100241.pdf>



**TABLES**

**Table 1**  
**Chemical Exposure Limits for Select Chemicals**  
 Associated with Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs

Chemical	Occupational Exposure Limits	Health Effects
<b>Acetone</b> CAS: 67-64-1 DOT: 1090, 127	OSHA: 1000 ppm (2400 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 250 ppm (590 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA IDLH: 2500 ppm ATSDR MRL: 13 ppm (inhalation)	vapor irritant to eyes and mucous membranes, skin irritant
<b>Acetic Acid</b> CAS: 64-19-17 DOT: 2790, 153 (10-80% acid) 2789, 132 (>80%)	OSHA: 10 ppm (25 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 10 ppm TWA, 15 ppm (37 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL IDLH: 50 ppm	irritate or burn skin, eyes and respiratory system, hyperkeratosis, pharyngeal edema, chronic bronchitis
<b>Alcohol (Isopropyl)</b> CAS: 67-63-0 DOT: 1219, 129	OSHA: 400 ppm (980 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 400 ppm TWA, 500 ppm (1225 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL IDLH: 500 ppm	vapor irritant to eyes and respiratory system, high concentrations may be anesthetic
<b>Aluminum</b> CAS: DOT:	OSHA: 15 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (particulates) NIOSH: 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	irritation to eye, skin and respiratory system
<b>Ammonia (Anhydrous)</b> CAS: 7664-41-7 DOT: 1005, 125 (anhydrous) 2672, 154 (10-35%) 2073, 125 (35-50%) 1005, 125 (>50%)	OSHA: 50 ppm (35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 25 ppm (18 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA, 35 ppm (27 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL IDLH: 300 ppm ATSDR MRL: 0.3 ppm (inhalation)	irritate or burn skin, eyes and respiratory system; contact with liquid causes caustic burns and frostbite; death due to inflammation of larynx
<b>Benzene</b> CAS: 71-43-2 DOT: 1114, 130	OSHA: 1 ppm (3 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA, 5 ppm (16 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL NIOSH: 0.1 ppm TWA, 1 ppm STEL IDLH: 500 ppm ATSDR MRL: 0.004 ppm (inhalation)	eye and respiratory irritant, dizziness, excitation, flushing, weakness, headache, loss of breath, chest constriction, nausea, coma, death
<b>Chloroform</b> CAS: 67-66-3 DOT 1888, 151	OSHA: 50 ppm (240 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) Ceiling NIOSH: 10ppm (49 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) Ceiling, 2ppm (9.78 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) STEL IDLH: 500 ppm ATSDR MRL: 0.02 ppm (inhalation)	headache, dizziness, nausea, drunkenness, narcosis

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<b>Ether (Ethyl Ether)</b> CAS: 60-29-7 DOT: 1155, 127	OSHA: 400 ppm (1200 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 400 ppm TWA (under evaluation) IDLH: 1900 ppm (10% LEL)	eye and skin irritant, headache, nausea, loss of consciousness
<b>Ethanol (Ethyl Alcohol)</b> CAS: 64-17-5 DOT: 1170, 127	OSHA: 1000 ppm (1900 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 1000 ppm TWA IDLH: 3300 ppm (10% LEL)	eye nose and throat irritant, headache, drowsiness, liquid causes intoxication
<b>Ethyl Acetate</b> CAS: 141-78-6 DOT: 1173, 129	OSHA: 400 ppm (1400 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 400 ppm TWA IDLH: 2000 ppm (10% LEL)	eye and respiratory irritant, headache, dizziness, nausea, weakness, loss of consciousness
<b>Formic Acid</b> CAS: 64-18-6 DOT: 1779, 153	OSHA: 5 ppm (9 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 5 ppm	vapor: nausea, vomiting; liquid: skin and eye burns
<b>Freon</b> CAS: varies (several types) DOT: varies	OSHA: varies NIOSH: varies	vapor: greater than 10% in air may cause narcosis; liquid may cause frostbite.
<b>Hydriodic Acid (Hydrogen Iodide)</b> CAS: 10034-85-2 DOT: 1787, 154	OSHA: NA NIOSH: NA	skin, nose and throat irritant; skin and eye burns; coughing, shortness of breath
<b>Hydrochloric (Muriatic) Acid (Hydrogen Chloride Gas)</b> CAS: 7647-01-0 DOT: 1789, 157 (solution) 1050, 125 (anhydrous)	OSHA: 5 ppm (7 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) Ceiling NIOSH: 5 ppm Ceiling IDLH: 50 ppm	skin, nose and throat irritant; skin and eye burns
<b>Hydrogen Peroxide</b> CAS: 7722-84-1 DOT: 2984, 146 (8-20%) 2014, 140 (20-60%) 2015, 143 (>60%)	OSHA: 1ppm (1.4mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 1 ppm IDLH: 75 ppm	skin, nose and throat irritant; skin and eye burns
<b>Hypophosphorus Acid</b> CAS: 6303-21-5 DOT: 154, 3264	OSHA: NA NIOSH: NA	severe skin, eye, and respiratory tract irritation or burns
<b>Iodine (Crystals)</b> CAS: 7553-56-2 DOT: NA	OSHA: 0.1 ppm (1 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> ) Ceiling NIOSH: 0.1 ppm IDLH: 2 ppm	eye, nose and skin irritant; lacrimation, chest tightness, skin burns, rash, cutaneous hypersensitivity
<b>Lithium Metal</b> CAS: 7439-93-2 DOT: 1415, 138	OSHA: NA NIOSH: NA	severe skin and eye irritation or burns, lung irritant, coughing, shortness of breath

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<b>Methanol (Methyl Alcohol)</b> CAS: 67-56-1 DOT: 1230, 131	OSHA: 200 (260 mg/kg <sup>3</sup> )ppm NIOSH: 200 ppm, 250 ppm (325 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL IDLH: 6,000 ppm	eye, nose and throat irritant, dizziness, headache, difficulty breathing, liver damage, teratogen
<b>Methylamine</b> CAS: 74-89-5 DOT: 1061, 118 (anhydrous) 1235, 132 (aqueous)	OSHA: 10 ppm (12 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: IDLH: 100 ppm	seizures, eye, nose and throat irritant, skin and eye burns
<b>Methyl Ethyl Ketone (2-Butanone)</b> CAS: 78-93-3 DOT: 1193, 127; 1232, 127	OSHA: 200 ppm (590 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) NIOSH: 200 ppm (590 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) ST 300 ppm (885 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) Other: 3000 ppm	Irritation of eyes, skin, nose; headache; dizziness; vomiting; dermatitis
<b>Methylene Chloride</b> CAS: 75-09-02 DOT: 1593, 160	OSHA: 25 ppm (87 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA, 125 ppm (435 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL NIOSH: under revision IDLH: 2300 ppm ATSDR MRL: 0.3 ppm (inhalation)	eye, nose and throat irritant, pulmonary edema, headache, nausea, fatigue
<b>Naphtha (petroleum distillates)</b> CAS: 8002-05-9 DOT: 1255, 128	OSHA: 500 ppm (2000 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 350 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA, 1800 mg/m <sup>3</sup> Ceiling IDLH: 1100 ppm	Irritation of eyes, nose, throat; dizziness, drowsiness, headache, nausea; dry cracked skin; chemical pneumonitis
<b>Phosphine Gas</b> CAS: 7803-51-2 DOT: 2199, 119	OSHA: 0.3 ppm (0.4 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA NIOSH: 0.3 ppm TWA, 1 ppm (1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL IDLH: 50 ppm	Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea; thirst; chest tightness, dyspnea (breathing difficulty); muscle pain, chills; stupor or syncope; pulmonary edema; liquid: frostbite
<b>Phosphoric Acid</b> CAS: 7664-38-2 DOT: 1805, 154	OSHA: 1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA NIOSH: 1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA, 3 mg/m <sup>3</sup> STEL IDLH: 1000 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	eyes, skin and upper respiratory system irritant; eye, skin, burns; dermatitis
<b>Phosphorus Pentachloride</b> CAS: 10026-13-8 DOT: 1806, 137	OSHA: 1mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA NIOSH: 1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA IDLH: 70 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	high irritant to skin, eyes & mucous membrane
<b>Phosphorus (Yellow)</b> CAS: 7728-14-0 DOT: 1381, 136	OSHA: 0.1mg/m <sup>3</sup> NIOSH: 1mg/m <sup>3</sup> IDLH: 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ATSDR MRL: 0.02 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (inhalation)	high irritant to skin, eyes & mucous membrane, abdominal pain, nausea, jaundice; anemia
<b>Phosphorus (Red)</b> CAS: NA DOT: NA	OSHA: NA NIOSH: NA	slight ingestive hazard

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<b>Sodium Dichromate</b> CAS: 10588-01-9 DOT: 1479, 140	OSHA: 0.01 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA (as CrO <sub>3</sub> ) NIOSH: 0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA (as Cr) IDLH: 15 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (as Cr <sup>+6</sup> )	respiratory irritation from inhalation of dust or mist; ingestion: vomiting, diarrhea; irritant to eyes and skin
<b>Sodium Hydroxide (Lye, Caustic Soda)</b> CAS: 1310-73-2 DOT: 1823, 154 (dry, solid) 1824, 154 (solution)	OSHA: 2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA NIOSH: 2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> Ceiling IDLH: 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	irritation or damage to respiratory system; irritation or burn to skin; contact causes severe damage to eyes
<b>Sodium Metal</b> CAS: 7440-23-5 DOT: 1428, 138	OSHA: NA NIOSH: NA	highly caustic to skin, forms caustic solution in water, strong oxidizer
<b>Sulfuric Acid</b> CAS: 7664-93-9 DOT: 1830, 137 1831, 137 (fuming) 1832, 137 (spent)	OSHA: 1mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA, 3 mg/m <sup>3</sup> STEL NIOSH: 1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA IDLH: 15mg/m <sup>3</sup>	skin, nose and throat irritant; skin and eye burns; pulmonary edema, bronchitis; emphysema; conjunctivitis
<b>Toluene</b> CAS: 108-88-3 DOT: 1294, 130	OSHA: 200ppm TWA, 300ppm Ceiling, 500ppm 10-min max NIOSH: 100ppm (375 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) TWA, 150 ppm (560 mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) STEL ATSDR MRL: 0.4 ppm (inhalation)	eye, nose and throat irritant, weakness, exhaustion, euphoria, dizziness, headache; dilated pupils, anxiety, muscle fatigue, insomnia

CAS = Chemical Abstracts Service number

DOT = Department of Transportation ID and Guide numbers

NA = not available

TWA = time weighted average

STEL = short term exposure limit

IDLH = immediately dangerous to life and health

ATSDR = Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

MRL= minimal risk level

LEL = lower explosive limit

ppm = parts per million

mg/m<sup>3</sup> = milligrams per cubic meterSource: NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npg.html>ATSDR MRLs: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/mrls.html>

**Table 2**  
**Recommended Indoor Air Exposure Limits**  
**for Selected Chemical Compounds**  
**Associated with Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories**

Compound	CDPHE Risk-Based Concentration <sup>a</sup>
acetone	0.15 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ammonia	0.14 ppm (0.1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ammonium hydroxide	0.025 ppm (0.036 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
benzene	0.00009 ppm ( 0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
chloroform	0.00002 ppm ( 0.00009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ethyl ether	0.23 ppm (0.7 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ethanol	1 ppm (1.9 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
formic acid	0.005 ppm (0.009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
glacial acetic acid	0.01 ppm (0.025 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
hydrochloric acid	0.013 ppm (0.02 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
iodine	0.0001 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methanol	0.2 ppm (0.26 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methylene chloride	0.0014 ppm ( 0.0047 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methyl amine	0.01 ppm (0.012 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methyl ethyl ketone	0.34 ppm (1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
naphtha	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
nitroethane	0.1 ppm (0.31 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
petroleum spirit	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
phosphoric acid	0.0025 ppm (0.01 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
potassium chromate	0.0000001 ppm (0.000001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
potassium dichromate	0.000004 ppm (0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sodium chromate	0.000008 ppm (0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sodium dichromate	0.0047 ppm (0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sodium hydroxide	0.0012 ppm (0.002 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sulfuric acid	0.0003 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
toluene	0.11 ppm (0.4 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
<del>lead<sup>b</sup></del>	<del>0.0002 ppm (0.0015 mg/m<sup>3</sup>)</del>
<del>lead<sup>b</sup> (wipe sample)</del>	<del>40 ug/ft<sup>2</sup></del>
<del>mercury<sup>b</sup></del>	<del>0.000037 ppm (0.0003 mg/m<sup>3</sup>)</del>

a. Assumes exposure 24 hours/day, 350 days/year, for 30 years;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  risk and  $HI \leq 1$ ; mg/m<sup>3</sup> concentrations.

~~b. Associated with amalgam (P2P) method only.~~

~~c. Not detectable in sample of porous material.~~

**Table 3**  
**Soil Remediation Objectives and Groundwater Standards**  
**for Selected Chemical Compounds**  
**Associated with Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories**

Compound	Soil Remediation Objective	Groundwater Cleanup Standard	Soil Concentration Protective of Groundwater <sup>c</sup>
acetone	1000 mg/kg	-	2.9 mg/kg
benzene	0.84 mg/kg	5.0 ug/l	0.17 mg/kg
chloroform	0.30 mg/kg	6.0 ug/l	1.89 mg/kg
formic acid	pH > 2	pH 6.5-8.5	-
glacial acetic acid	pH > 2	pH 6.5-8.5	-
hydrochloric acid	pH > 2	pH 6.5-8.5	-
methyl ethyl ketone	1000 mg/kg	-	18.30 mg/kg
methylene chloride	11.5 mg/kg	4.7 ug/l	0.06 mg/kg
phosphoric acid	pH > 2	pH 6.5-8.5	-
sulfuric acid	pH > 2	pH 6.5-8.5	-
toluene	1000 mg/kg	1000 ug/l	85 mg/kg
lead <sup>a</sup>	400 mg/kg	<del>0.150</del> <u>0.12</u> mg/l	22 mg/kg
mercury (elemental) <sup>a</sup>	1.1 mg/kg	<del>0.012</del> <u>0.012</u> mg/l	0.88 mg/kg
mercury (ionic compounds <sup>b</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	23 mg/kg	<del>0.012</del> <u>0.012</u> mg/l	0.88 mg/kg

a. Associated with amalgam (P2P) method only.

b. Ionic mercury compounds such as HgCl<sub>2</sub>.

c. Applies if impacted soil is near or in contact with groundwater or surface water.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**SUGGESTED SCREENING ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL ~~WIPE SAMPLE COLLECTION~~  
**PROCEDURE****



## SUGGESTED SCREENING ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL COLLECTION OF NON-POROUS SURFACE SAMPLES (WIPE SAMPLES)

These guidelines are intended to provide an adequate and cost effective testing protocol for screening level assessment. The assumption is that this protocol is for properties with no known background of use as a meth lab or suspicion of meth use in the property. It is suggested that only qualified industrial hygienists perform testing for meth lab contamination. These professionals may follow the exact protocol outlined in Appendix A of 6 CCR 1014-3, "Regulations Pertaining to the Cleanup of Methamphetamine Laboratories", this suggested protocol, or a protocol of their own design. These guidelines are intended as a MINIMUM sampling protocol for testing for the presence of meth utilizing composite sampling techniques.

### ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

1. Conduct a limited background check on the property to determine if there is any record of use of the property as a meth lab. This may include checking with the local law enforcement office or law enforcement databases to see if the property has ever been listed as a meth lab or been the site of a meth related investigation. Brief discussions with neighbors may add supportive documentation. If this reveals discovery of a meth lab or a presumptive meth lab, then the requirements of 6 CCR 1014-3, "Regulations Pertaining to the Cleanup of Methamphetamine Laboratories" apply.
2. Conduct a visual inspection of the property, including all out buildings, garages, attics and basements. Look for staining or signs of former meth lab use, lab manufacturing apparatus or by-products, etc.
3. Conduct limited composite wipe sampling for meth. The goal is to collect between 3-5 total composite samples (analyses) per property. This may be difficult if there are many out buildings or separate functional spaces. It is recommended that a maximum of 5 wipe samples be allowed per composite sample. This is a matter of convenience and a limitation of most analytical laboratories. At least one of these composite samples should include the heating or cooling system, if it is a forced air system. The other composites should include common suspected areas such as the kitchen, bathrooms, family room, master bedroom, other bedrooms, attic, and basements. Worse case locations include exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathrooms. Wipe samples should be collected in general accordance with the methods specified in Appendices A & B of 6 CCR 1014-3. However, for this protocol, one wipe may be used to sample 100 cm<sup>2</sup> areas on 4 walls of one room (folding wipe over for each new area wiped). This composite sample could be combined with similar wipes from other rooms; however, it is recommended that a single composite sample submitted for analysis consist of samples from no more than 10 discrete surfaces.
4. Interpreting results will be slightly different than in 6 CCR 1014-3 due to the fact that there is no previous knowledge of a meth lab, thus the test hypothesis in 6 CCR 1014-3 does not initially apply. It is recommended that the analytical laboratory's Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL) for meth be used as an action limit, with the PQL to be no higher than 0.1ug/cm<sup>2</sup>. That is, if any of the composite samples have detectable meth concentrations that are greater than the laboratory PQL, then additional testing will be required to confirm or deny the presence of a meth lab. However, if meth is not detected in any of the composite samples, then there is no evidence of a meth lab or meth use at the property. It

should be noted that this initial screening is strictly an assessment of the probability of a meth lab, but is not equivalent to clearance sampling or the cleanup certification provided in 6 CCR 1014-6.

If any of the composite sample results are above the PQL, there are several courses of action that can be followed:

- a. The property may be assumed to be a meth lab, with no further sampling, and thus must comply with the requirements of 6 CCR 1014-3.
  - b. Additional limited sampling (not intended to satisfy clearance sampling requirements), in accordance with 6 CCR 1014-3, may be conducted to verify the presence of meth at levels above the cleanup levels specified in 6 CCR 1014-3 (note that the cleanup levels are different for discrete and composite sampling). If this additional sampling confirms concentrations of meth above the cleanup levels, then the property is considered a meth lab and must comply with the requirements of 6 CCR 1014-3.
  - c. A full sampling protocol as specified in 6 CCR 1014-3 can be conducted in an attempt to demonstrate that concentrations of meth do not exceed the cleanup levels specified in 6 CCR 1014-3. If successful, the property would not be considered a meth lab subject to 6 CCR 1014-3. If this sampling fails to demonstrate that meth concentrations are below the specified cleanup levels, then the property is considered a meth lab and must comply with the requirements of 6 CCR 1014-3.
5. Documentation of the assessment should include all information about sampling locations, sample combinations used in the each composite, sampling methods (type of wipe material, solvent used, size of areas wiped [cm<sup>2</sup>], name and address of laboratory that conducted the analysis, and original laboratory reports), findings of the background check on the property, summary of the visual inspection of the property, and conclusions about whether the property had been used as a meth lab in the past. The suggested report outline provided below follows the Preliminary Assessment in 6 CCR 1014-3.
- Property description
  - Background information
  - Functional areas
  - Inspection findings
  - Sample documentation
    - Methodology
    - Locations
    - Laboratory information
    - Results
  - Other documentation
  - Determination(s)

~~To determine the extent of contamination on non-porous surfaces (tile, linoleum and formica), a technique known as “wipe” sampling is used. On porous areas, such as carpet or drapes, this sampling technique is only satisfactory for a qualitative (absence or presence) identification of the chemical.~~

~~Paper filters are generally used for collection of metals. Mixed cellulose ester filter discs (AA filters) or smear tabs, or their equivalent, are most often recommended. Polyvinyl chloride filters are available for substances that are unstable on paper-type filters. Squares of a gauze material may be used for many organic substances, and have the advantage of being more durable than filter media, especially when wiping rough surfaces. They may be used dry, or wetted with water or solvent to enhance collection efficiency.~~

~~The following procedure is recommended for collecting wipe samples:~~

- ~~1.If multiple samples are to be taken at the worksite, prepare a rough sketch of the area to be wipe sampled.~~
- ~~2.A new set of clean, impervious gloves should be used for each sample to avoid contamination of the filter by previous samples (and the possibility of false positives) and to prevent contact with the substance.~~
- ~~3.Withdraw the filter from the vial with your fingers or clean tweezers. If a damp wipe sample is desired, moisten the filter with distilled water (lead samples) or other solvent (methanol for meth samples) as recommended.~~
- ~~4Depending on the purpose of the sample, it may be useful to determine the concentration of contamination (e.g., in micrograms of agent per area). For these samples, it is necessary to record the area of the surface wiped (e.g., 1 ft<sup>2</sup>). This would normally not be necessary for samples taken to simply show the presence of the contaminant.~~
- ~~5.Firm pressure should be applied when wiping.~~
- ~~6.Start at the outside edge and progress toward the center of the surface area by wiping in concentric squares of decreasing size.~~
- ~~7.Without allowing the filter to come into contact with any other surface, fold the filter with the exposed side in. If possible, use the same filter to repeat the sampling of the same area, then fold it over again. Place the filter in a sample vial, cap and number it, and note the number at the sample location on the sketch. Include notes with the sketch giving any further description of the sample.~~
- ~~8.At least one blank filter treated in the same fashion, but without wiping, should be submitted for each sampled area.~~

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**AUGUST 2002 MEMORANDUM**

**ON**

**PROPOSED EXPOSURE LIMITS**

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division

**Proposed Exposure Limits for Methamphetamine Lab Cleanups**  
August 1, 2002

This attachment describes human exposure reference values for chemicals associated with methamphetamine production. Table 1 provides definitions of each type of reference value. Table 2 lists reference values available or derived from EPA, ATSDR and NIOSH sources. Included in Table 2 are acute minimum risk levels, which may be useful for evaluating high-level exposures, but are not appropriate post-cleanup criteria.

The information in Tables 1 and 2 was used to generate proposed CDPHE exposure limits, which are listed in Table 3. Table 3 also lists the source or method from which the reference value is obtained.

Lastly, Table 4 shows a comparison of the proposed CDPHE limits with values currently available from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the EPA (Indoor Air Guidelines).

The proposed CDPHE exposure limits were selected from the available reference values or modified reference values based on the reliability of the source, or method of modification. The first level of preference is given to values obtained from EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). For the three compounds that are known or probable human carcinogens, the reference value given in Table 3 is the 30-year exposure concentration calculated for an added lifetime cancer risk of 1 in 1,000,000.

For noncarcinogens, the preferred reference value is an IRIS reference concentration (RfC). For chemicals that do not have an IRIS RfC, the second level of preference may be an ATSDR minimum risk level for chronic inhalation exposure. The only chemical for which this was an option is acetone. The database, from which the MRL was estimated, is quite limited. Alternatively, the extrapolated RfD method (see below) was selected for acetone.

The third level of preference is a method that applies an IRIS oral reference dose (RfD) to the inhalation pathway. This method converts dose from (mg/kg/day) to an exposure concentration (mg/m<sup>3</sup>). This conversion is commonly used by EPA Region 9 to convert RfDs to exposure concentration screening values, when only an RfD is available.

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This method, however, has limitations, e.g., it may not account for portal-of-entry effects, and route-specific absorption, distribution and metabolism. These limitations cast doubt on method validity. Therefore, use of the derived reference values should be limited to risk screening.

The least desirable reference values presented in Table 3 are those based on modified occupational exposure limits. Although such values may be the least acceptable, this method does provide a referent concentration when one is required and a more acceptable value is not available.

Some states have set reference levels for methamphetamine residues after the clean up of a contaminated area. After communicating with some of these state health departments, it was learned that these levels are not a health-based standard. The methamphetamine levels are based on what is believed to be conservative and protective, while at the same time achievable by clean-up contractors. Therefore, a methamphetamine reference level cannot be recommended at this time.

Table 1. Definitions of reference values

Reference Dose (RfD)	The Oral Reference Dose for chronic noncarcinogenic health effects of a compound is based on the assumption that thresholds exist for certain toxic effects. In general, the RfD is an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects during a lifetime. RfDs are obtained from the EPA Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS).
Inhalation Reference Concentration (RfC)	The Inhalation Reference Concentration for chronic noncarcinogenic health effects of a compound is analogous to the oral RfD and is likewise based on the assumption that thresholds exist for certain toxic effects. The RfC considers toxic effects for both the respiratory system (portal-of-entry) and for effects peripheral to the respiratory system (extrarespiratory effects). In general, the RfC is an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily inhalation exposure of the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects during a lifetime. RfCs are obtained from the EPA Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS).

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Table 1. Definitions of reference values (cont.)

References doses extrapolated to the inhalation pathway	For chemicals that do not have an IRIS RfC, a less desirable option is to convert an IRIS oral reference doses (RfDs) for inhalation exposure. This method converts dose from (mg/kg/day) to an exposure concentration (mg/m <sup>3</sup> ) by multiplying the RfD of a chemical by 70 kg body weight and dividing by 20 m <sup>3</sup> /day. This method, however, has important limitations.
ATSDR Minimal Risk Level (MRL), Acute and Chronic	The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Minimal Risk Level (MRL) is an estimate of the daily human exposure to a hazardous substance that is likely to be without appreciable risk of adverse noncancer health effects over a specified duration of exposure. Acute MRL values are for exposure up to 14 days, while Chronic MRL values are for exposure of one year to a lifetime. MRLs are intended to serve as screening levels. MRLs are not intended to define clean up or action levels.
NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits (REL)	The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Recommended Exposure Limits (REL) are the recommended maximum exposure level of a compound that a worker should be exposed to, in order to avoid adverse health effects. RELs are time-weighted average concentrations for up to a 10-hour workday during a 40-hour workweek.
Long-term Effects Screening Levels (ESLs)	The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission developed Long-term Effects Screening Levels (ESLs), by dividing NIOSH RELs by one thousand. This calculation was done to obtain long-term non-occupational (i.e. household) referent concentrations. ESLs are used to evaluate the potential for effects to occur as a result of exposure to concentrations of constituents in the air. ESLs are based on data concerning health effects, odor nuisance potential, effects with respect to vegetation, and corrosion effects. They are not ambient air standards. If predicted or measured airborne levels of a constituent do not exceed the screening levels, adverse health or welfare effects would not be expected to result. If ambient levels of constituents in air exceed the screening levels, this does not necessarily indicate a health hazard exists.

**Table 2. Reference Values Available or Derived from EPA, ATSDR or NIOSH Sources.**

Compound	EPA IRIS RfC	Extrapolated RfD	Cancer Risk 1x10 <sup>-6</sup> *	ATSDR MRL Acute Inh.	ATSDR MRL Chronic Inh.	Effects Screening Level Modified NIOSH REL
acetone	~	0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	26 ppm	13 ppm	0.25 ppm (0.59 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ammonia	0.1 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	0.5 ppm	0.3 ppm	~
ammonium hydroxide	~	~	~	~	~	0.025 ppm
benzene	~	~	0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.05 ppm	0.004 ppm	~
chloroform	~	~	0.00009 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.1 ppm	0.02 ppm	~
ethyl ether	~	0.7 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	~	0.4 ppm (1.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ethanol	~	~	~	~	~	1 ppm (1.9 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
formic acid	~	~	~	~	~	0.005 ppm (0.009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
glacial acetic acid (acetic acid)	~	~	~	~	~	0.01 ppm (0.025 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
hydrochloric acid	0.02 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	~	~	~
iodine	~	~	~	~	~	0.0001 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
lithium metal	~	~	~	~	~	NL
methanol	~	~	~	~	~	0.2 ppm (0.26 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methylene chloride	~	1.75 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.0047 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.6 ppm	0.3 ppm	~
methyl amine	~	~	~	~	~	0.01 ppm (0.012 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methyl ethyl ketone	1 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	~	~	~
naphtha	~	~	~	~	~	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
nitroethane	~	~	~	~	~	0.1 ppm (0.31 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
petroleum spirit	~	~	~	~	~	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
phosphoric acid	0.01 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	~	~	~
potassium chromate	~	~	~	~	~	0.000001 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
potassium dichromate	~	~	~	~	~	0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
potassium permanganate	~	~	~	~	~	NL
red phosphorus	~	~	~	~	~	NL
sodium chromate	~	~	~	~	~	0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
sodium dichromate	~	~	~	~	~	0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
sodium hydroxide	~	~	~	~	~	0.002 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
sodium metal	~	~	~	~	~	NL
sulfuric acid	~	~	~	~	~	0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
toluene	0.4 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	1 ppm	0.08 ppm	~
methamphetamine	~	~	~	~	~	~
total VOCs	~	~	~	~	~	~
lead	0.0015 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (H)	~	~	~	~	~
mercury	0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	~	~	~	~	~

(H) Health Effects Assessment Summary Tables (HEAST), prepared by the EPA, can be used in the absence of a RfC.

NL Occupational exposure limits have not been set.

\* These numbers are based on less than lifetime (30 year) exposure, derived from the original lifetime (70 year) exposure values.



**Table 3. Proposed CDPHE Exposure Units and Source or Method from which the Reference Value is Obtained.**

Compound	Proposed CDPHE reference Value	Source/Method
acetone	0.15 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Extrapolated RfD
ammonia	0.14 ppm (0.1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS RfC
ammonium hydroxide	0.025 ppm (0.036 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
benzene	0.00009 ppm ( 0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS 1x10-6 cancer risk
chloroform	0.00002 ppm ( 0.00009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS 1x10-6 cancer risk
ethyl ether	0.23 ppm (0.7 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Extrapolated RfD
ethanol	1 ppm (1.9 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
formic acid	0.005 ppm (0.009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
glacial acetic acid	0.01 ppm (0.025 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
hydrochloric acid	0.013 ppm (0.02 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS RfC
iodine	0.0001 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
lithium metal	-	-
methanol	0.2 ppm (0.26 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
methylene chloride	0.0014 ppm ( 0.0047 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS 1x10-6 cancer risk
methyl amine	0.01 ppm (0.012 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
methyl ethyl ketone	0.34 ppm (1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS RfC
naphtha	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
nitroethane	0.1 ppm (0.31 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
petroleum spirit	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
phosphoric acid	0.0025 ppm (0.01 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS RfC
potassium chromate	0.0000001 ppm (0.000001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
potassium dichromate	0.000004 ppm (0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
potassium permanganate	-	-
red phosphorus	-	-
sodium chromate	0.000008 ppm (0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
sodium dichromate	0.0047 ppm (0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
sodium hydroxide	0.0012 ppm (0.002 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
sodium metal	-	-
sulfuric acid	0.0003 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	NIOSH REL/ESL
toluene	0.11 ppm (0.4 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS RfC
methamphetamine	-	-
total VOCs	-	-
lead	0.0002 ppm (0.0015 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	H.E.A.S.T.
mercury	0.000037 ppm (0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	IRIS RfC

**Table 4. Comparison of Recommended Cleanup Guidelines for Selected Chemical Compounds  
Associated with Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories**

Compound	Kansas Cleanup Level <sup>a</sup>	EPA Indoor Air Guidance <sup>b</sup>	CDPHE Risk-Based Concentration <sup>c</sup>
acetone	12 ppm (28.56 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.15 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.15 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ammonia	1.2 ppm (0.84 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.14 ppm (0.1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ammonium hydroxide	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.025 ppm (0.036 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
benzene	0.005 ppm (0.016 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.0004 ppm (0.0013 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.00009 ppm (0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
chloroform	0.05 ppm (0.24 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.000089 ppm (0.00043 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.00002 ppm (0.00009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ethyl ether	19 ppm (57.57 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.23 ppm (0.7 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
ethanol	48 ppm (90.72 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	1 ppm (1.9 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
formic acid	0.24 ppm (0.45 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.005 ppm (0.009 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
glacial acetic acid	0.48 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	-	0.01 ppm (0.025 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
hydrochloric acid	0.013 ppm	-	0.013 ppm (0.02 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
iodine	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.0001 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
lithium metal	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	-
methanol	9.5 ppm (12.45 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.2 ppm (0.26 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methylene chloride	1.2 ppm (4.16 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.0061 ppm (0.021 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.0014 ppm (0.0047 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methyl amine	0.48 ppm (0.61 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.01 ppm (0.012 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methyl ethyl ketone	-	-	0.34 ppm (1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
naphtha	16.7 ppm (67.64 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
nitroethane	4.8 ppm (14.74 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	-	0.1 ppm (0.31 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
petroleum spirit	16.7 ppm	-	0.1 ppm (0.35 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
phosphoric acid	0.048 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	-	0.0025 ppm (0.01 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
potassium chromate	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.000001 ppm (0.000001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
potassium dichromate	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.000004 ppm (0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
potassium permanganate	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	-
red phosphorus	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	-
sodium chromate	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.000008 ppm (0.00005 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sodium dichromate	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.0047 ppm (0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sodium hydroxide	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	0.0012 ppm (0.002 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
sodium metal	ND <sup>e</sup>	-	-
sulfuric acid	0.048 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	-	0.0003 ppm (0.001 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
toluene	2.4 ppm (9.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.11 ppm (0.400 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.11 ppm (0.4 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
methamphetamine	-	-	-
total VOCs	-	-	-
lead <sup>d</sup>	-	-	0.0002 ppm (0.0015 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
mercury <sup>d</sup>	-	0.000037 ppm (0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.000037 ppm (0.0003 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )

a. Assumes exposure 24 hours a day for one year; mg/m<sup>3</sup> concentrations at 25 °C and 1 atmosphere (760 Torr).

b. Assumes exposure 24 hours/day, 350 days/year, for 30 years; 1x10<sup>-5</sup> risk and HI≤1; mg/m<sup>3</sup> concentrations at 25 °C and 1 atmosphere (760 Torr).

c. Assumes exposure 24 hours/day, 350 days/year, for 30 years; 1x10<sup>-6</sup> risk and HI≤1; mg/m<sup>3</sup> concentrations.

d. Associated with amalgam (P2P) method only.

e. Not detectable in sample of porous material.