

## *Meth Fact Sheet*

### *Property Owner Responsibility*

#### **What happens when the police raid a meth lab on my property?**

When a lab is found, law enforcement and hazardous waste personnel collect and list all the evidence needed for court prosecution. This includes the lab equipment, chemicals, and any other materials used in the manufacture of the illegal drug.

The local health department will be notified and will make the determination as to whether the room or structure that housed the lab is “fit” for human habitation. In the event that the property is deemed unfit, notices will be posted and the legal property owner will be notified.

#### **What does “unfit for use” mean?**

It means that the property must be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated prior to reuse. Entry is prohibited prior to completion of cleaning.

#### **Who is responsible for the cleanup costs?**

The legal property owner is ultimately responsible for the cleanup. The property owner may also be legally responsible if the cleanup is not done properly and people later become sick after entering the structure.

## **If the police take the chemicals and equipment used to make meth, why do I have to cleanup the property?**

During the manufacturing process, it is probable that contamination from dust, powders, liquids, and vapors released during the cooking process were left on surfaces and absorbent materials such as carpets, furniture, drapes, wallboard, ceiling tiles, sinks, drains, and ventilation systems. The soil or groundwater can also become contaminated if waste chemicals were disposed of on-site or in the septic system.

## **How is the property cleaned up?**

Testing and sampling must be done by a certified cleanup contractor to determine if the property is contaminated above state minimum levels. If the property must be cleaned, the contractor will file a written cleanup plan, which must be approved prior to the commencement of any work.

## **How much will the cleanup cost?**

A certified contractor will give you a bid on the service based on the size of the structure or property and the level of contamination. Although there is no “average” cost, many cleanups run between two and three thousand dollars.

## **How long will the cleanup take?**

This depends on the size and type of lab, and the level of contamination. Cleanup can take anywhere from one to four weeks.