

FOR UTILITY WORKERS

HOW CAN I RECOGNIZE A METH LAB?

Meth labs are dangerous to those who live in and around them. They also present serious potential dangers to utility workers, meter-readers, and neighbors who might accidentally come across them. While any single item on the list below may not necessarily indicate the presence of a lab, any combination should be cause for suspicion and the exercise of great care.

- Strong chemical smells like ammonia or ether
- Laboratory equipment, including glass tubing, beakers, flasks, plastic containers, and funnels
- Residence or garage windows painted over or covered in foil, plastic, or tarps
- Hoses hanging from windows
- An unusual number of camping stoves, hot plates, or blow torches
- Melted or badly burned pots and pans
- Bottles stored in refrigerator or cool place where liquids and solids are separating (often clear or amber in color)
- Evidence of large quantities of non-prescription weight loss or cold medications that contain pseudoephedrine or ephedrine
- Quantities of Drano, iodine crystals, or lye
- Small propane tanks, often with brass fittings discolored by a greenish stain
- Large quantities of “kitty litter”
- Residents exiting the house or garage only long enough to smoke
- Short duration auto and foot traffic at all hours
- Heavily barred or otherwise secured residence or garage doors or windows
- The presence of surveillance cameras
- Orange-brown or rust colored stains on walls, floors, counter tops, bathtubs, and sinks
- Dismantled smoke detectors

If you are suspicious, take no action yourself. Call 911 or notify the Prairie du Chien Police Department at (608) 326-2421.