



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject:	<i>Responding to and Controlling Clandestine Drug Labs</i>	Number:	<i>225</i>
Effective Date:	<i>January 1, 2001</i>	Revised Date:	
Rescinds:	<i>049</i>	Dated:	<i>January 27, 2000</i>

Approved By:

PURPOSE

To ensure proper and safe response techniques are used when dealing with Clandestine Drug Labs (Clan-Lab) and specific measures are taken to ensure proper control and clean-up of the contaminated site.

DEFINITIONS

1. Clandestine Drug Lab – A concealed or secret site used for the purpose of manufacturing illegal drugs by fabricating a makeshift laboratory.
2. Lab Conditions (all are considered a Clan-Lab site):
 - A. Operating Lab – The Clan-Lab is set up and operating. This can mean that it is either cooking or cooling.
 - B. Non-Operating Lab – The Clan-Lab is set up but is not cooking or cooling.
 - C. Stored or Boxed Lab – Components used to set up a Clan-Lab (such as chemicals, glassware, burners, etc.) have been located, but they are not in use. They may be being stored for transportation, temporary storage, or hastily concealed.
 - D. Clan-Lab Dump Site – Any location where chemicals and/or lab equipment have been dumped or disposed of.
 - E. DEA – (Federal) Drug Enforcement Administration

- F. Department Haz-Mat Safety Officer – The Police Department will have one or more certified officers receive training through the DEA at Quantico, Virginia (or other appropriate location) to be qualified as a Clan-Lab Haz-Mat Safety Officer.

FOREWARD

It is imperative that each officer is aware of the dangers associated with Clan-Lab operations and the volatile nature of the materials routinely associated with such operations. Each lab will have several different types of chemicals and agents that by themselves can be deadly. Combined they can be explosive and may detonate with great force simply by coming in contact with air or with water, or even each other, depending on the substance. Some substances are carcinogens and may take years before adverse medical conditions begin to surface. Some substances are fatal if inhaled or absorbed through the skin. All should be considered dangerous and treated with great respect. Many Clan-Lab operators will have in place booby-traps. This may be some home-rigged device that will expose the unwary to contaminating chemicals, explosives or a combination of the two.

PROCEDURE

1. In the situation where intelligence exists concerning a Clan-Lab, the officer(s) developing the information will relay it to the on-duty or on-call Narcotic/Vice officer. The Narcotic/Vice officer will confer with a department Haz-Mat Safety Officer to evaluate the information and determine what safety measures should be taken while the intelligence is being further investigated, or what safety measures will be taken when a search warrant is executed. Any other appropriate department and/or agency may be consulted at this stage to help determine the safest way to proceed. In the event a Police Department Haz-Mat Safety Officer is not available, a Fire Department Haz-Mat Safety Officer will be consulted. If no Haz-Mat officer is available, DEA will be immediately notified and consulted for advice.
2. In the situation where police, fire or a citizen has inadvertently discovered a Clan-Lab, the site will be immediately secured and the Fire Department will be notified. The Division Lieutenant (or above) will be notified. This will also be the case when a search warrant is executed and a Clan-Lab is in fact discovered. The on-duty or on-call Narcotic/Vice officer will be notified. He/she will in turn immediately notify a department Haz-Mat Safety Officer. If at all possible, both will respond to the incident location and evaluate the situation. At that time a department Haz-Mat Safety Officer will determine the threat level and recommend the appropriate actions to be taken. The Narcotic/Vice officer or a Police Department's Haz-Mat Safety Officer shall notify the Fire Department's

Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Team. The Division Lieutenant (or above) or his/her designee will manage the incident and coordinate with the other assisting divisions and/or agencies. Once on the scene, the scene commander will work with a Fire Department's Haz-Mat Safety Officer and a Police Department's Haz-Mat Safety Officer to determine that all safety measures have been taken to ensure the safety of personnel and property. If no Haz-Mat Safety Officer for the Police Department or the Fire Department is available for the above process, DEA will be notified and be consulted to ensure all safety measures are considered.

3. In any situation where a Clan-Lab is located, it is the ultimate goal of the Police Department to make certain that the site is promptly secured. Our desire is to see that no injuries occur to personnel or civilians by being exposed to the harmful chemicals and their byproducts, and that the site is thoroughly cleaned.

4. No officer will enter the site without proper authority and without proper protective equipment. Authority will come from the officer's chain of command. Proper protective equipment is outlined in the attached Myrtle Beach Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) EMER-33. That SOG will be incorporated into this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). No attempt to collect evidence will be made without the approval of the on-scene commander. Any officer entering the Clan-Lab will be subjected to decontamination as established by the Myrtle Beach Fire Department. Neither he/she, nor any equipment exposed to the site will leave the site without the approval of the on-site Fire Department Haz-Mat Safety Officer. If no on-site Fire Department Haz-Mat Safety Officer is available, the ranking Fire Official on scene will be responsible for authorizing what exposed personnel and/or equipment may leave the site and when the removal of the exposed personnel and/or equipment may take place. Ideally, no one will enter the site and the scene will be secured until such time it can be properly cleaned up.

5. A department Haz-Mat Safety Officer will confer with the Division Lieutenant (or above) or his/her designee concerning the status of the Clan-Lab and the threat level. At the Division Lieutenant's direction the Safety Officer will notify the Atlanta, Georgia office of the DEA of the existence of the Clan-Lab and request their assistance in processing evidence and cleaning up the site. If no Haz-Mat Safety Officer is available, the Division Lieutenant or his/her designee will notify DEA of the situation and request their assistance. The Police Department will secure the scene until such time the DEA can send a clean-up team to take control of the event and assume the clean-up responsibilities. No further action will be taken with the Clan-Lab unless it is first requested by the DEA and approved by the on scene commander.

6. The Fire Department will be responsible for all on site decontamination of personnel and a Fire Department Haz-Mat Safety Officer will instruct personnel on proper decontamination of equipment. If a local Fire Department Haz-Mat

Safety Officer is not available the ranking Fire Official on scene will be responsible for requesting another Haz-Mat Safety Officer through procedures established by the Fire Department. All decontamination procedures will be followed without fail.

7. A copy of the Myrtle Beach Fire Department, Standard Operating Guidelines, Emergency Guideline Number EMER-33, effective 4/00, regarding Clandestine Drug Labs accompanies and is made a part of this policy. (*See Next Page Below*).

**MYRTLE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES
EMERGENCY GUIDELINE**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/00

RESCINDS: NEW

NUMBER: EMER-33 (Pgs 5)

SUBJECT: CLANDESTINE DRUG LABS

GENERAL: Clandestine drug labs, because of the presence and/or use of hazardous chemicals, shall be considered hazardous material sites. All operations involved with these labs shall follow prescribed guidelines set by Police, Fire, and other agencies including clean-up contractors.

LAB CONDITIONS: There are four categories of lab conditions. These conditions are:

1. Stored or Boxed - this lab condition is a situation where lab chemicals, glassware and other lab equipment is stored or boxed. However, chemical contamination may be present on the containers and in the structure housing the stored lab. Stored chemical containers may be unstable or booby-trapped.
2. Non-Operation- this lab condition is a situation where the lab is setup to operate but is not in the operating mode. Chemical contamination, unstable chemicals and/or booby-traps may exist.
3. Operating- this lab condition is a situation where a lab is set up and operating. Chemical contamination, unstable chemicals and/or booby-traps may exist.
4. Lab Dump Site- This condition is a situation where lab chemicals and/or equipment are dumped or disposed usually in remote or isolated areas.

RESPONSE PHILOSOPHY: Because of the chemical hazards associated with clandestine drug labs, Police, Fire and EMS shall consider responses to these labs as a hazardous materials incident response and shall follow all guidelines set by this document as well as other Haz-Mat guidelines set by each agency.

1. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT:

- A. An Incident Command System shall be used at all clandestine drug lab operations.
- B. As drug labs are primarily a law enforcement operation, the Incident Commander shall be a qualified representative of the Myrtle Beach Police Department or appropriate law enforcement agency.

- C. The Incident Commander shall manage the incident with appropriate divisions, branches, sectors, etc. depending on the situation at hand.
- D. The Incident Commander shall appoint a Myrtle Beach Police Department Safety Officer who shall monitor law enforcement operations.
- E. The Hazardous Materials Team Officer shall assign a Hazardous Materials Safety Officer and shall have safety jurisdiction concerning any and all operations involving hazardous materials or associated conditions.
- F. The Incident Commander will be responsible for determining if and when the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will be notified to respond and/or requested to render the lab safe and be responsible for its clean-up.

2. BRIEFING:

A. Pre-raid Briefings

- 1. Hazardous Material Team, Fire and EMS personnel shall be included in pre-raid briefings.
- 2. The Hazardous Materials Team Officer shall discuss pertinent information relative to the Haz-Mat operations for the raid.

B. Non-Raid Briefings

- 1. The Hazardous Materials Team Officer shall meet and discuss the plan for Haz-Mat operations with the Incident Commander before operations commence for lab operations that do not require a raid.
- 2. Also, the Haz-Mat Team Officer shall discuss the plan for team operations with team members and other pertinent personnel.

3. RAIDS:

A. Initial Staging

- 1. The Haz-Mat team and other pertinent fire units shall “hold back” at a safe distance (usually a city block) until the scene is secured by Myrtle Beach Police Department during the initial lab entrance.
- 2. The Haz-Mat team shall then be called by the Myrtle Beach Police Department when it is safe to move up to the lab scene.

B. Arrival on-scene: Once on-scene, the Haz-Mat team shall immediately:

- 1. Start setting up “decon”
- 2. Assist Myrtle Beach Police in deconning civilians taken from the lab.

4. DECONTAMINATION:

A. Civilian Decon:

- 1. Civilians taken from a lab shall be deconned as soon as possible upon exit from the lab. This process usually occurs in the “warm zone” adjacent to the lab structure.

2. In most cases, the civilians shall remove all clothing and be placed in disposable type coveralls.
 3. The use of salvage covers to create a “dressing” area shall be used to provide privacy for all the individuals changing clothes.
 4. Myrtle Beach Police Department personnel will assist the civilians during the changing process.
 5. Contaminated clothing and other personal items of these civilians shall be bagged and marked for further processing.
 6. The civilians transported to a jail or processing facility shall be showered immediately upon arrival at that facility.
 7. In extreme cases of contamination, a decon shower shall be provided, at the scene, to decon the civilian(s) before release or processing. Privacy shall be provided during the showering process – decon shall be soap & wash with one rinse.
 8. The Haz-Mat Team Officer shall determine the levels and extent of decontamination.
- B. Police/Fire Personnel Decon:
1. **Any Police and/or Fire personnel who enter the lab (hot zone) must be deconned. No exceptions.**
 2. Uniformed Officers who enter a lab shall be deconned according to the determination by the Haz-Mat Team Officer. Uniforms and other personal effects shall be bagged for further cleaning.
 3. Police vehicles contaminated from drug lab operations shall be removed from service immediately and deconned by procedures set by the Myrtle Beach Police Department.
 4. The Haz-Mat Team Officer shall determine the level and extent of decontamination.

5. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- A. The basic ensemble required for entry into a drug lab is Level B protection.
- B. Level B protection components are:
1. Level B suit- with hood and elastic arm and leg cuffs.
 2. Chemical boots
 3. Fire Retardant coveralls and hood
 4. Double gloves with single gloves acceptable for initial raid personnel.
 5. Positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus.
 6. Haz-Mat Team personnel shall assist Police Narcotics Division personnel in the donning and doffing of protective clothing, if necessary.

6. DRUG DIVISION HAZ-MAT TRAINING AND MEDICAL REQUIRMENTS:

- A. Haz-Mat training. Before entering a lab, narcotics personnel shall have completed 24 hours of Haz-Mat related training, which includes certification to wear SCBA's.

- B. Baseline physical exams. Police personnel who are required to use protective clothing and enter labs, shall have passed an entrance base-line medical exam prior to being assigned to enter drug labs. Monitoring exams are required for the duration of drug lab service. If a narcotics officer leaves drug lab services, he/she is required to have an exit medical exam.
- C. Any police and/or fire personnel who enter a drug lab shall complete their Haz-Mat exposure form and forward it to their respective department.
- D. On-site medical monitoring. During extreme heat conditions, personnel in protective clothing may experience additional stress conditions that may effect their performance and medical status. The Haz-Mat team shall monitor all personnel in protective clothing and/or require rest periods between air tank changes. The use of liquids to replenish bodily fluids may also be required.

7. SAFETY

- A. Attitude
 - 1. Positive attitude
 - 2. Leads to health and long life
- B. Scene Control
 - 1. Isolate the lab
 - 2. Deny entry to those not authorized to be there
 - 3. Establish control zones
 - 4. Enforce control zone rules
 - 5. Keep unprotected personnel away
- C. Reduce Exposure
 - 1. Wear PPE
 - 2. Follow prescribed decon
- D. Practice good personal hygiene
 - 1. Never eat, drink, or smoke until deconned.
 - 2. Never carry gum, tobacco, candy, etc. into a lab.
 - 3. Always shower ASAP after working in a lab.
 - 4. Always be aware of symptoms of exposure. (This information to be supplied by Haz-Mat if possible)
 - 5. Remember- many symptoms may be delayed for up to 72 hours after exposure.

8. CONTROL ZONES

- A. Hot Zone- the dwelling containing the drug lab shall be considered the “hot zone”. All guidelines shall be followed for the “hot zone” exit and entry. The “hot zone” may be expanded or decreased only by order of the Haz-Mat Officer.
- B. Warm zone- the immediate area around the drug lab shall be considered the “warm zone”. The size of this zone will be determined by the Haz-Mat Team Officer and will be based upon various factors

such as weather conditions, type and stage of lab, contamination, neighbors, etc. This zone shall be designated with “Yellow” barrier tape. Decontamination is conducted in the “warm zone”. Personal protective equipment may still be required in this zone.

- C. Cold zone- this zone is considered a safe zone for police and fire personnel and does not require special personal protective equipment. This zone may be off-limits to civilians. The zone for civilians shall be called the “public zone”.

9. REPORTING OF DRUG LABS

- A. Criteria for reporting: If any of the following criteria exists within a structure or vehicle (trailer, boat, motor home, etc.), it shall be reported to DHEC and posted with the yellow “Drug Lab” sign.
 - 1. Any operating lab with chemicals and glassware.
 - 2. Any lab that is set up but not operating.
 - 3. Any dwelling, structure or vehicle where drug lab chemicals and glassware are found or stored
- B. Reporting drug labs to the South Carolina Department of Health Environmental Control (DHEC) will be done by the Fire Department Fire Officer in charge
- C. Coordination on the criteria for reporting of the Drug Lab will be discussed by Police & Fire Officers in charge.
- D. If it is determined that a dwelling will fall within the reporting guidelines, the dwelling shall be posted with the appropriate signs and the required phone calls be made to DHEC.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES

- A. Haz-Mat Team – in general, the Hazardous Materials Team shall provide the following services at drug labs.
 - 1. Chemical site safety
 - 2. Decontamination
 - 3. Lab analysis, **limited** air monitoring and sampling
 - 4. Chemical data and information
 - 5. Personal protective equipment
 - 6. Medical monitoring
- B. Fire Protection
 - 1. Fire suppression equipment and manpower
- C. EMS
 - 1. Medical equipment and personnel
 - 2. Transport of injured.