

The NLECTC system developed and presented a free two- to three-hour Introduction to Clandestine Meth Labs training to several agencies in 2012. This fact sheet presents information and resources that other agencies can use in developing a similar training program.

The training should have the following objectives:

- *Educating first responders on the signs of a meth user.*
- *Recognizing a clandestine meth lab, especially the one-step “shake and bake” method, and knowing the importance of alerting law enforcement on finding a suspected lab.*
- *Using proper protective equipment.*
- *Decontaminating persons who have come into contact with meth, emphasizing that standard decontamination is not adequate.*
- *Following hospital protocols.*

According to NLECTC staff, course content should cover dangers that could be found in a lab and signs to look for such as lithium strips taken from batteries, kerosene and pseudoephedrine. Emphasize the importance of wearing proper equipment, especially respirators, and ways to handle possibly contaminated individuals.

So-called “shake and bake” meth presents special dangers because the plastic containers are designed to hold beverages, not combustible chemicals. A video posted on YouTube by the Tulsa (Okla.) Police Department shows just how easily these bottles can explode, even in trained hands; visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kq7zj8Kd_Q. Numerous victims have been treated recently in burn centers across the nation as a result of bottles exploding and causing serious injuries (<http://www.medicaldaily.com/news/20120123/8873/tax-payer-shake-and-bake-meth-methamphetamine-methlab-basement-shed-drug-illegal-police-h.htm>).

For more information, contact NLECTC at (800) 248-2742 or asknlectc@justnet.org. For more information on the programs of the NLECTC Center System or NIJ, visit <http://www.justnet.org> or contact NIJ Program Manager Michael O’Shea at (202) 305-7954 or michael.oshea@usdoj.gov



Resources

Meth = Death. CD. Available from the NLECTC Small, Rural, Tribal and Border Regional Center. Contact: Danny Ball, Director, dball@srtbrc.org, (606) 677-6163.

Meth Labs, Meth Lab Response & Meth Users for Firefighters and EMS. <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2010/10/meth-labs.html>. Firefighters Support Foundation, <http://www.fffsupport.org>

“Meth Lab Training for First Responders,” *TechBeat*, Fall 2012. <http://www.justnet.org>

“*Shake and Bake*” Webinar. Produced by Strategic Applications International (SAI) under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) Tribal Meth Initiative. Contact: Anthony Coulson, ecoulson@sai-dc.com, (520) 904-6778. Requesting law enforcement officers must include the following: name, rank, email address, telephone number; department name, address; supervisor’s name, rank, email address, telephone number; brief reason for the request with a cc to the officer’s

supervisor. Video will be made available via a secure Internet download on verification of information.

Note: Consider contacting a local hospital about the possibility of obtaining specific photos of decon reception.

Websites

Drug Enforcement Administration. Includes the National Clandestine Laboratory Registry. <http://www.justice.gov/dea>

National Drug Endangered Children. <http://www.nationaldec.org>