

**Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories:
What Probation and Parole Officers Need to Know
Audio Teleconference Broadcast July 7, 2004**

Presenter:
Michael S. McCampbell
Project Director
Circle Solutions, Inc.

Numerous communities are experiencing a tremendous increase in clandestine drug laboratories, methamphetamine trafficking, and abuse. The problem has spread rapidly from the West Coast, and methamphetamine arrests now outnumber all other drug arrests in some Midwestern states. The Southeastern United States has recently seen a huge increase in these illicit laboratories, especially in the rural areas. In addition, national forests, national parks, and Indian reservations are fast becoming popular locations for clandestine laboratories.

These illicit laboratories often house substantial quantities of chemicals that may pose serious health problems and environmental risks. Once seized, a clandestine laboratory remains a possible hazardous waste site, often with large quantities of toxic chemicals and unknown corrosives, carcinogens, and combustibles that must be removed in a safe and legal manner. Clandestine laboratory enforcement and cleanup operations are complicated by the presence of these hazardous materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 90-minute presentation prepares probation and parole personnel to recognize the specialized problems associated with clandestine laboratories. Participants will learn to recognize the signs of a clandestine laboratory and will learn how methamphetamine is produced. Participants will also become familiar with the unique hazards associated with clandestine laboratories and methamphetamine production. The presentation will provide recommendations for action that will assist probation and parole personnel in addressing these dangers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- List common chemicals and precursors found at clandestine laboratory sites;
- Recognize the signs of a clandestine laboratory;
- Recognize the hazards to probation and parole personnel;
- Identify the two most common methods of synthesizing methamphetamine; and
- List recommendations for action to assist probation and parole personnel in addressing the dangers of clandestine laboratories.

TOPICS

Topics presented in this course include:

- Background of the Clandestine Laboratory Problem
 - History and scope of the problem in the U.S.
 - Effects of methamphetamine
 - Types of clandestine laboratories
- Identifying Clandestine Laboratories
 - Common indicators and locations
 - Cooking methods and chemicals
 - Precursors and other chemicals
 - Glassware and equipment
 - Cooks and operators
- Understanding Clandestine Laboratory Hazards
 - Lab site with a cook in-progress
 - Lab site recently used to manufacture methamphetamine
 - The human factor
- Recommendations for Action
 - Training
 - Collaboration with law enforcement
 - Policy development
- Final Comments and Conclusions