Questions Asked by **LANDLORDS**

Q What happens now?

A The Local Health Department determines whether or not the property is "unfit for use."

Q What does "unfit" mean?

A It means the property has to be cleaned up before it can be reused. Entry is prohibited.

Q What happens if the Local Health Department designates my property "unfit for use"?

A You cannot occupy the property until samples demonstrate the property has been cleaned up by a certified clean-up contractor.

Q How do I clean up the property?

A The first step is to determine if the property is contaminated above the state's clean-up threshold. Samples should be taken and sent to a scientific laboratory. If the samples are below the threshold, the owner can clean up the property with soap and water.

Q What is the state clean-up threshold?

A The threshold is one micro-grams per square foot (1 $\mu g/ft^2$).

Q Who will take samples?

A Check if your Local Health Department is able to sample drug lab sites. Or, you can hire a certified clean-up contractor to do the sampling.

Q How much will this cost?

A A certified contractor will give you a bid on the cost of clean up. It usually ranges between $1,500 -$5,000.

Q How long will it take to get the property cleaned up?

A It usually takes 4 to 6 weeks for a contractor to clean up the property.

Q Will my homeowner's insurance cover the cost of clean up?

A It depends on your homeowner's policy. Contact your insurance agent right away.

Q Can I go back onto my property to get personal belongings?

A Yes, until the property has been determined "unfit for use" you may enter the property and retrieve personal belongings, at your own risk. Open windows and doors to increase ventilation and reduce the risk of inhaling dangerous fumes.

Q How do I find a certified clean-up contractor?

A You can call the Local Health Department staff person who's card is on the back of this brochure.

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Or, contact the Washington State Department of Health, Clandestine Drug Lab Program (360) 236-3381.

Or, download the **CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR LIST** from the Internet at:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/CDL

Questions Asked by **TENANTS & NEIGHBORS**

Q Can I go in and get my belongings?

A Yes, but only after law enforcement officers have completed their investigation, and if the structure has not been declared "unfit for use." Be careful about exposure to hazardous fumes. Open windows to increase ventilation.

Q Is what happened next door going to affect me?

A Probably not, but if you are concerned, talk to your doctor.

Local Health Department Staff:

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Environmental Health & Safety
7171 Cleanwater Lane, Bldg 4
Olympia, WA 98504-7825

THURSTON COUNTY WASHINGTON SINCE 1852

12/99

Meth Bust; Now What?

An illegal methamphetamine lab has been busted on or near your property. Here's what you need to know.

Who can I talk to?

Your local health department staff (see card on back).

READ this before you enter the property!!

Be aware! This property may have residuals of hazardous and/or biological materials that could be harmful to your health such as:

- Strong acids
- Corrosives
- Flammable liquids
- Used needles