

## Illegal Methamphetamine Labs

### Information for Health Care Providers

The methods and chemicals used to produce methamphetamine are highly variable. There are three basic categories of chemicals found at illegal methamphetamine labs in Minnesota: (1) solvents, (2) corrosives/irritants, and (3) metals/salts. Specific chemicals commonly found at illegal labs and some of their possible health effects and their target organs are listed below.

- (1) **Solvents:** acetone, ether, freon, hexane, methanol, toluene, trichloroethane, white gas, xylene
- Symptoms: irritation to skin, eyes, nose and throat; headache; dizziness; central nervous system depressant/depression; nausea; vomiting; visual disturbance
- Target Organs: eyes, skin, respiratory system, central nervous system, liver, kidneys
- (2) **Corrosives/Irritants:** anhydrous ammonia, hydrochloric acid, phosphine, sodium hydroxide (lye), sodium thiosulfate, sulfuric acid (drain cleaner)
- Symptoms: irritation to upper respiratory tract; cough; eye and skin irritation, inflammation and burns; gastrointestinal disturbances; thirst; chest tightness; dyspnea; muscle pain; syncope; convulsions
- Target Organs: eyes, skin, respiratory tract
- (3) **Metals/Salts:** iodine, lithium metal, red phosphorus, yellow phosphorus, sodium metal
- Symptoms: irritation to eyes, skin, nose and respiratory tract; lacrimation; headache; chest tightness; cutaneous hypersensitivity; abdominal pain; jaundice
- Target Organs: eyes, skin, respiratory system, central nervous system, liver, kidneys, blood, cardiovascular system

Substance-specific toxicological information and treatment procedures are available 24 hours a day from the **Minnesota Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222.**

A detailed list of the chemicals found at a methamphetamine lab site should be available from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA),



**Factsheets and other information on meth lab-related topics from many Minnesota agencies can be found at the Minnesota Meth Labs Website at: <http://www.dem.state.mn.us/methlab/>.**

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