

## Clandestine Drug Laboratory – Frequently Asked Questions

### **METH BUST – NOW WHAT?**

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

### **Who can I talk to?**

The New Mexico Environment Department's Clandestine Drug Lab Cleanup Program at (505) 476-6025

### **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

### Questions Asked by **LANDLORDS**:

#### **Q What happens now?**

**A** If the law enforcement agency determines that there has been a manufacturing of drugs, or a “cook”, within the property, the owner of the property is responsible for having a professional assessment done as to 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 analysis designates my property “unfit for use”?**

**A** You cannot occupy the property until samples demonstrate the property has been cleaned up by a legitimate 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 cleanup threshold?**

A The threshold is one micrograms per square foot (1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ).

**Q Who will take samples?**

A An acceptable clean-up contractor.

**Q How much will this cost?**

A An acceptable contractor will give you a bid on the cost of cleanup.

**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 cleanup?**

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 New Mexico Environment Department or look on-line.

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.

**Q How can I better understand the CDL Cleanup Rule and the entire cleanup process?**

A Take a look at the PowerPoint presentation below.

