

**SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

Subject:
OPERATIONS AT
CLANDESTINE DRUG LABS

Effective Date:
7-1-2002
Revision Date:

S.O.G.# 8.2

Applies To: All Personnel

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II. Purpose

It shall be policy of the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District to investigate the cause and origin of all fires occurring within the Fire District. When a clandestine drug lab is found within a structure, vehicle or other location, fire operations shall be modified to insure the safety of all personnel at the scene. The incident commander shall be immediately notified and the decision to extinguish the fire with minimal water from and exterior attack and the consideration of runoff water containment, evacuation or allowing the fire to burn itself out shall be made.

III. Operations

- A. Incidents involving a suspected clandestine drug lab.
 - 1. On the discovery of materials, glassware, chemicals or other materials consistent with the operation of a clandestine drug lab, all Fire District personnel including investigators on the incident scene shall immediately withdraw from the location, being aware of possible booby traps.
 - 2. The incident scene shall be completely secured from all directions by fire and police personnel as specified in Section E 1 and E 2 of this guide.
 - 3. If not already notified, the Police Department Detective Unit, the State Fire Marshal, Tri Lakes Haz Mat Resources, and the Fire Chief shall be immediately notified.
 - 4. All emergency services personnel that may have been contaminated by patient care, smoke exposure, physical contact or other means shall be immediately notified and decontamination procedures of all equipment, clothing and personnel shall be initiated.
 - a. For further decontamination procedures, refer to Hazardous Material SOG# 8.
- B. Incidents involving a known clandestine drug lab.
 - 1. The police department prior to fire district response will identify the location.

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2. The Command structure will be a unified command system with law enforcement and other applicable agencies.
3. When possible, the staging area, water supply, command post location and Hot, Warm, and Cold zones shall be established prior to mitigation.
4. Everyone that may have been contaminated prior to Haz Mat response, by patient care, smoke exposure, physical contact or other means shall be immediately notified and decontamination procedures of all equipment, clothing and personnel shall be initiated.

C. Incidents involving a clandestine drug lab found during another type response.

1. Response for fire suppression or an EMS response.
 - a. Incidents reported as an explosion, possible explosion or flash fire.
 - b. Incidents reported as involving the odor of "Coleman Fuel", paint thinner, acetone or other flammable or combustible liquids.
 - c. Incidents reported as involving head, chest, lower arm or full-body burn.
2. All emergency services personnel that may have been contaminated by patient care, smoke exposure, physical contact or other means shall be immediately notified and decontamination procedures of all equipment, clothing and personnel shall be initiated.

D. Investigation of fires in clandestine drug labs.

1. The incident scene shall be considered a crime scene and the Police Department shall assume command of the incident. All Fire District activities shall be authorized through the police incident commander but shall be within the authority of the Fire District to override during fire suppression, rescue and decontamination operations.
2. Entry to the incident scene shall be excluded unless authorized by the Police Officer in Charge and the fire operations commander.
3. Personnel shall be responsible for having the necessary personal protective clothing and equipment in place prior to scene entry.
4. The Police Department shall be responsible for notification of all accessory law enforcement agencies required to process the incident scene.
5. All materials removed from the structure, vehicle or other location shall be considered extremely hazardous waste and be protected as such.
 - a. Proper disposal by an approved hazardous waste handler shall be required for all disposals.
6. Constant ventilation and air monitoring inside and outside the structure, vehicle or other location shall take place during the investigation process.
7. When evidence of a clandestine drug lab has been found, great care shall be taken in the overhaul and removal of burned items.

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- a. The recovered items will most likely be severely contaminated.
 - b. The recovered items may be extremely sensitive to heat, shock, friction or other movement.
 - c. The recovered items may be severely damaged and release product when moved.
8. All items recovered as evidence shall be considered hazardous and shall be handled as such.
 9. All debris shall remain in the structure or vehicle unless removal is absolutely necessary.
 10. Photographs shall be taken throughout the investigation process, only in a safe atmosphere.
 11. All emergency services personnel that may have been contaminated during the investigation phase shall have decontamination procedures completed on all equipment, clothing and personnel.

E. Scene security and posting

1. The immediate hot zone shall be secured and barricaded at a distance of at least the size of the property involved or not less than 100 feet in all directions from the site.
2. The immediate cold zone shall be considered at least 200 or 600 feet, in all directions from the structure or location. Consideration of distance must include wind direction and speed.
3. All spectators, civilians, press or other non-essential persons shall be kept at least 600 feet distance from the incident scene.
4. City or county enforcement officials shall be notified, and the Fire District may have to post "Unsafe Building" posters per their procedures.
5. All utilities to the structure shall be terminated and meters removed from the property if required by the utility jurisdiction.
 - a. Electrical power shall be terminated at the pole.
 - b. All utility personnel shall be advised of the situation prior to entering the structure, Shut-in tests and other interior tests shall not be allowed without their knowledge and the proper protective clothing and decontamination procedures being given.
6. All neighbors of the property involved shall be notified by law enforcement of the extreme danger involved within and on the property. They shall be advised to remain away from the property and keep all animals and children away from the property.

F. Release of Information

1. No information about the incident scene, including but not limited to address, type of incident, injuries, extent of damage, owner, fire cause or any other

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information shall be released to the press without authorization of the Fire Chief and the Police and/or Sheriff's Department.

2. Sensitive information shall not be broadcast over Fire District radios or telephones. Other means shall be used to relay this type of information.

G. Decontamination

1. All tools, equipment, clothing and other items used during the incident scene shall be properly decontaminated or disposed of.
2. All personnel participating in the incident scene shall be properly decontaminated before reporting for or returning to duty.
3. Personal decontamination shall consist of:
 - a. Complete hose-down at the incident scene while in personal equipment.
 - b. Putting on a Ty-Vek suit and reporting to the duty station.
 - c. Once at the station, a cold shower using an alkaline soap, such as shampoo, followed by a hot shower using regular soap.
 - d. The shower stall shall be decontaminated after each use using a strong detergent.
 - e. Ty-Vek suits used for transport shall be placed in double plastic bags for proper disposal
4. All clothing shall be decontaminated following the same methods described above. The soap used shall be strong washing soap running the clothes through at least two cycles.
 - a. An empty washer cycle using soap shall be run through the washer after each set of clothes is washed to decontaminate the washer.
 - b. Ty-Vek suits used at the incident scene shall be left at the incident scene and discarded as hazardous waste in double plastic bags.

H. Incident Documentation

1. Specific tracking of district assets that are damaged and not recoverable must be retained for reimbursement or replacement. Specific tracking of expendables must be maintained.