

	<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b> <small>State Form 39870 (R/S-06)</small>	Reference Number <b>INV-023</b>
	Subject <b>Methamphetamine Suppression Section - Clandestine Lab Team</b>	
	Special Instructions Replaces INV-023 dated August 29, 2011	Effective Date <b>January 15, 2015</b>

## **I. PURPOSE**

Establish guidelines for the safe entry and neutralization of clandestine labs and the utilization, selection, and training of the Methamphetamine Suppression Section (M.S.S.) Clandestine Lab Team, and related programs.

## **II. POLICY**

Initial entry into a suspected clandestine lab site shall always be made by M.S.S. Clan Lab Team members. Seizing and processing clandestine labs shall be accomplished in stages in accordance with the safety procedures outlined in the Clandestine Laboratory Safety Manual.

## **III. PROCEDURE**

### **A. Locating a suspected or potential lab.**

When a suspected clandestine lab, remnants of a clandestine lab, or chemicals normally associated with clandestine lab operation are encountered, officers shall immediately **STOP-exit the location or suspect vehicle** and notify the district duty officer of the district where the suspected lab and/or chemicals were discovered.

Note: The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) guidelines strictly prohibit entry into a suspected clandestine lab by persons other than certified clandestine lab team members.

### **B. Activation of the Methamphetamine Suppression Section Clandestine Lab Team.**

1. The designated M.S.S. response coordinator shall be notified when:

- a. A Department employee; or
- b. Another criminal justice agency has located a possible active, inactive, or potential lab.

2. Upon notification, the response coordinator shall contact the requesting officer to determine the location and type of laboratory, all known information relative to suspects, and all other relevant information; and

3. Contact either the M.S.S. members directly or request the district duty officer to do so. M.S.S. members shall be advised of the situation and the proper response protocol.

a. M.S.S. call-outs shall be done on a scheduled rotation basis or by geographic proximity to the suspected lab site.

b. Once the responding team has been identified, the originating district duty officer or MSS Clan Lab team member shall notify Operations of the following information:

- (1) The date and time the lab was located;
- (2) The case agent's name;
- (3) The names of other certified lab officers who are/or will be processing the scene; and
- (4) The location of the lab (including address and county name).

### **C. Clan Lab sites.**

1. Only trained and certified M.S.S. members shall enter any location to serve a search warrant or make an arrest at sites suspected of containing or have contained a clandestine lab or is believed to have chemical hardware or components used in a clandestine lab. Once the site safety officer and/or team chemist have deemed the location safe, other officers may enter the location.
2. In all cases, where a known operational clandestine laboratory exists, Department policy is to "wait out" the suspect(s) or utilize other covert means to gain lawful entry to prevent or/limit a volatile chemical reaction, unless an immediate life threatening situation occurs.
3. During an operation, if a team member(s) has been exposed to any amount of any chemical, by physical contact or by inhalation, the team member(s) shall complete an Injury and Illness (I&I) Report (on Shield), a PD-49, and be examined by the Department's physician. The PD-49 and physician's report shall be forwarded through channels, to the Superintendent.
4. Upon the completion of at the on-scene processing, the M.S.S. case agent or the district duty officer shall notify Operations of the applicable case report number and the type of lab processed, e.g., Red P, Nazi/Birch, or One Pot.

### **IV. SELECTION PROCESS (VACANCIES)**

- A. The M.S.S. Clan Lab Team will solicit volunteers from sworn personnel and the Laboratory Division to fill clan lab vacancies. However, if enough volunteers are not found to sufficiently staff the team sworn personnel may be assigned to fill vacant positions.
- B. Any eligible Department member who desires to become a member of the M.S.S. Clandestine Lab Team shall submit a memo, through channels, to the Special Investigations Command (SIC) Commander.
- C. A team member requesting to leave the clan lab team shall submit a memo, through channels, to the SIC Commander for consideration and approval.

### **V. TRAINING**

- A. Department M.S.S. personnel shall be properly trained, medically evaluated, and utilized in accordance with all Department SOPs and the standards set forth in the Department's M.S.S. Clandestine Laboratory Safety Manual.
- B. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.