

Clandestine Laboratory - Hazardous Materials Response

449.1 PURPOSE

To provide safety guidelines to Department personnel when responding to clandestine laboratories or other narcotic related hazardous material sites. By their very nature, clandestine laboratories are illegal, hazardous, and volatile sites that can cause great bodily harm or death to Department personnel, Fire Department personnel, and innocent civilians through explosions, exposure to poisonous gases, etc.

Additionally, failure to properly respond to, clean up, transport, and store hazardous materials, per mandated Cal-OSHA rules and regulations, can significantly increase the Department's liability and subject us to significant fines.

449.2 DEFINITIONS

Clandestine Laboratories are defined as, but not limited to, manufacturing or mixing sites, either active or dormant, involving the following types of dangerous drugs:

- (a) Methamphetamine
- (b) 3-4 Methylene-Dioxy-Methamphetamine (MDMA, Ecstasy)
- (c) Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)
- (d) Phencyclidine (PCP)
- (e) Lysergic-Acid-Diethylamide (LSD)
- (f) Methamphetamine "conversion" sites (from powder to "ice")
- (g) Fentanyl
- (h) Any other illegal chemical manufacturing/mixing or dump site

449.3 SECTION TITLE

- (a) When a clandestine laboratory is located or suspected, the on-duty Watch Commander or Supervisor shall notify the following agencies in the following order of priority:
 - (a) South San Francisco Fire Department
 - (b) San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force:
 - 1. During business hours: 650-573-3991
 - 2. After business hours: 650-363-4915, ask for the "call-out" special agent
 - 3. The Narcotics Task Force should be contacted prior to contacting BNE.
- (b) In most circumstances where a clandestine laboratory is located, either the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force will assume the role of the primary investigating

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agency and will be responsible for the case's prosecution, which will in no way relieve the South San Francisco Police Department from our responsibilities or continued assistance with the case.

- (c) Department officers who are first responders will take all necessary steps to protect themselves, the public, and the crime scene from being contaminated, i.e.: set up a perimeter, evacuate immediate and/or surrounding area, stay upwind, wear protective rubber gloves or clothing, if available, etc. Officers will also lawfully identify, detain and/or arrest any suspects involved in the case, as we normally would do in any other criminal matter.
- (d) Narcotics Task Force agents may respond to a scene after hours with limited personnel, evaluate the condition, render it safe, and return the next business day with sufficient personnel. If this occurs, South San Francisco Police Department personnel will have to remain at the site unless other secure arrangements can be made.
- (e) Under no circumstances should Department members handle, book, or otherwise transport hazardous materials to the police station, evidence room, or any non-approved facility.