

**OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Response to Drug Labs	<b>Number: T-016</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	Provide guidance on how and when to respond on requests for assistance at drug lab sites.	<b>OSFM Approved:</b>  <u>Signature on file at OSFM</u>  Henry L. Hanf, Acting State Fire Marshal <b>Adoption Date:</b> October 27, 1993 <b>Revision Dates:</b> February 14, 1994

**I. SCOPE**

This guideline will address approved procedures used to safely respond to, mitigate, and perform personnel and equipment decontamination from drug lab operations.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

**Operating Drug Labs** - Process of manufacturing illegal drugs from hazardous chemicals. Also known as active, working, or hot drug labs.

**III. APPROVED RESPONSES**

- A. Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams shall only respond on drug labs at the request of a law enforcement agency, or when requested by the local fire protection agency and no law enforcement agency is on site. In addition, the team leader for the regional team shall ascertain whether the drug lab is an operating site. State funds for reimbursement will only be authorized when the lab is an operating site, or the fire agency on a fire scene does not have the proper level of personal protective clothing to make an assessment of the danger at a possible drug lab location.
- B. When the condition of a drug lab is unknown, the team may respond, but will not be reimbursed as a state response, unless they receive confirmation of an operating lab from the law enforcement agency.

- C. "Operating" drug labs will be reimbursable only if pre-approved by the State Fire Marshal Duty Officer.

#### **IV. SHUT-DOWN OF LABS**

Regional Response Teams shall not shut-down an operating drug lab unless the entry personnel have been thoroughly trained in how to safely shut-down an operating drug lab.

If team members are not trained in how to properly shut-down an operating lab of the type they are encountering, then it is expected that any control measures will be performed by other authorized competent personnel.

#### **V. CONTROL OF LAB SITES**

The local fire protection district or law enforcement agency shall be responsible for limiting access to a potential drug lab site.

The Regional Hazardous Materials Team may be asked to remove the hazardous chemicals used in the drug lab operation to an exterior location where the suspected chemicals can be sampled and finger-printed. They may also assist in the packaging of the unwanted chemicals for proper disposal.

Regional Response Teams may be requested to provide safety back-up to law enforcement entry personnel, or to provide decontamination services for those entry personnel.

#### **VI. SITE SAFETY AT DRUG LABS**

The Team Safety Officer shall determine the adequacy of: the decon process; the access and control points; the personal protective clothing used on that scene; the adequacy of emergency signals and plans; and the level of monitoring necessary for the scene/site. (Also see SOG T-004).

Fire protection shall be established on all operating drug lab sites to provide fire protection should a fire occur.

All other safety procedures outlined in the Team Response Guidelines shall be in place prior to any personnel entering the lab site.

The local law enforcement agency, if on-site, is responsible for posting and reporting premises of a drug lab site. The poster used states that the premises are unsafe to occupy until cleaned and certified by the Oregon state Health Division.

## **VII. DISPOSAL OF CHEMICALS**

The Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for hiring a disposal contractor to package, manifest, and transport drug lab chemicals to a certified and licensed disposal site.

Some chemicals used in the manufacture of drugs will require the use of a bomb squad to properly and safely dispose of them.

## **VIII. NON-STATE RESPONSE**

Nothing in this guideline shall preclude a team from responding as a non-state response (local response) as long as the above safety procedures are followed.