
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE

GENERAL ORDER

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SUBJECT: Clandestine Drug Laboratory Response

REFERENCE: CALEA Ch. 71

CROSS REFERENCE: (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.120
29 CFR 1910.134
29 CFR 1910.1200

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I. PURPOSE

- A. To provide guidelines to enhance the safety of officers and the public from the dangers presented by clandestine drug laboratory operations and the chemicals used in illegal drug manufacturing.
- B. To ensure compliance with OSHA guidelines regarding response to clandestine drug laboratories.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Clandestine drug laboratory – An illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that has been, is being, or could be used in the manufacture of synthesis of controlled substances.
- B. Drug endangered child – A drug endangered child is a child who has been exposed to an environment with conditions of contamination or hazardous lifestyle that may result in abuse, life or health endangerment, or neglect affecting children as a result of illicit drug use, sales or manufacturing. A criminal violation threshold is met when elements of the contamination or hazardous lifestyle meet the criteria of Kansas Statutes. A child is defined as under the age of 18 years.

III. SITE SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Department's Infection Control Officer will function as the Site Safety Officer at clandestine laboratory scenes. In the absence of the Infection Control Officer, the on-scene Narcotics Unit Supervisor or the Narcotics Unit Lead Detective will act as the Site Safety Officer until the arrival of the Infection Control Officer.

- B. The Site Safety Officer will ensure the Department's compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations regarding the investigations of clandestine drug laboratories. These duties will include responding to the scene of all clandestine drug laboratories to act as an independent site safety officer and ensure compliance with the remainder of this order.

- C. The Site Safety Officer shall also create and maintain all required records regarding clandestine laboratory investigative personnel, including completion of a Hazard Assessment and Recognition Report at all lab sites. (Appendix A)

- D. The Site Safety Officer will make the final determination on the level of equipment, protection, and decontamination.

IV. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN RESPONDING TO CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES

- A. All officers who enter a clandestine lab scene or engage in a clandestine laboratory investigation will complete a Clandestine Lab Investigation Report (CLIR) indicating their involvement following each investigation. (Appendix B)
- B. Once the existence of a clandestine laboratory site is determined, only personnel who have received OSHA certified clandestine laboratory investigation training will be allowed to enter into clandestine laboratory sites.
- C. Any juvenile located inside a structure housing a clandestine drug laboratory site will be handled in accordance with General Order 40.2. The receiving person at any facility to which a child is transported will be informed that the child was taken into custody in a clandestine drug laboratory.
- D. The Vice/Narcotics/Intelligence Unit Asset Manager will be responsible for the storage, maintenance, inventory, and accountability of all Department clandestine laboratory investigation equipment and supplies.

V. DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

- A. If law enforcement personnel at the scene of a clandestine drug laboratory determine that there is reasonable belief that the child will be harmed if not immediately removed from the place of residence where the child was found, the child will be placed in protective custody.

1. If law enforcement personnel at the scene of a clandestine drug laboratory (e.g. house, car, package, etc.) determine that the child is symptomatic from having been exposed to any level of contamination and or other illness is apparent, they shall call the Emergency Medical Services for evaluation and transportation for medical care.

2. If it is determined at the scene that the child is not

symptomatic or exhibiting any illness, then the child will be transported to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center as a CINC (child in need of care). Evidence deemed relevant by law enforcement officers should be documented, photos taken and reports are made in reference to the condition of the home, any exposures to parents or children, etc.

VI. DUTIES OF INITIAL RESPONDING OFFICERS

- A. Upon discovery of a clandestine laboratory operation, officers must first ensure the safety of citizens and officers.
 - 1. Evacuate lab or storage location.
 - 2. Advise all persons that no smoking is allowed within 500 feet of the site.
 - 3. Cordon off site location out to safe distance from the vapor area.
 - 4. Stay upwind/upgrade and at a recommended safe distance of at least 100 yards (300 ft.).
 - 5. Allow no one to enter or re-enter the site, unless they are certified in clandestine lab investigation.
 - 6. Detain/arrest suspects outside the location.
 - 7. Detain and interview possible witnesses outside the location.
- B. Notifications. In order to enable the Narcotics Unit to determine the correct level of response, the following information should be determined by the first officers on the scene and relayed to Narcotics Unit personnel, if possible:
 - 1. Exact location of the lab, including type of structure (e.g., in a vehicle, motel, single family dwelling, storage locker).
 - 2. Whether or not the lab is operational (is it cooking? Is it boxed? etc.).
 - 3. Number of suspects in custody.
 - 4. Location of suspects (at scene, at detention unit, county jail, etc.).
 - 5. Any persons injured.
- C. Any Department personnel who inadvertently enter into what is determined to be a clandestine laboratory scene should remain at the scene but leave the structure and wait for decontamination and further instructions. A CLIR will be filled out and the Site Safety Officer notified. Furthermore, if an officer believes that he or she has been exposed to chemicals, the officer will fill out a CLIR and notify the site safety officer.

VII. RESPONSE BY CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

- A. Clandestine Laboratory Investigation Certification.
 - 1. All certified personnel who are engaged in the investigation of clandestine drug laboratories will be provided an annual baseline physical. There will also be a physical upon appointment to and exit from the unit.

2. Department personnel who are certified must receive re-certification training annually.

- B. Certified personnel will utilize the safety equipment provided by the Department or other agencies in the manner in which they were trained whenever they are engaged in any phase of investigating a known or suspected clandestine drug laboratory site.
- C. Once the existence of a clandestine drug laboratory has been confirmed, the Drug Enforcement Administration High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Clandestine Laboratory Response Task Force or KBI will be called to join the investigation. Task force or KBI personnel will handle evidence collection, photography, and other crime scene responsibilities at the scene, with the assistance of certified Department personnel. Once the investigation at the scene is complete, the KBI or DEA will be the hazardous waste generator and will arrange for a private contractor to respond and remove any hazardous waste located at the scene. Department personnel will stand by until all phases of the investigation are complete.
- D. The Drug Enforcement Administration High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Clandestine Laboratory Response Task Force may also be called upon when certified officers are needed to serve search warrants at known or suspected drug laboratory sites.
- E. The Fire Department's HAZMAT Unit may be called to stand by at the scene of a clandestine drug laboratory during the investigation to provide additional expertise and equipment.
- F. Once a clandestine laboratory investigation is completed and it is determined, based on the investigating officers' training, that hazardous chemicals were located at the scene or drugs have been manufactured there, a warning will be affixed to the structure. If forced entry was made to the location in order to conduct the investigation, the location should be secured prior to the scene being cleared by Department personnel.
- G. Certified personnel shall decontaminate their clothing and equipment in the manner in which they were trained prior to leaving a clandestine laboratory site.

VIII. HANDLING SUSPECTS FROM LAB SCENES

- A. Certified personnel will determine the extent of decontamination needed for suspects.
- B. Decontamination of suspects will be done on a case by case basis. Suspect decontamination will be based upon:
 - 1. Obvious signs of contamination present on the suspect.
 - 2. Whether the lab was operational.
 - 3. Suspect's location in relation to the lab.
 - 4. Extent of visible contamination present at the lab scene.
 - 5. Types of chemicals present at the lab.
- C. The suspects should be placed into protective clothing prior to transport to any detention, hospital, or other facility. Receiving personnel at any such facility will be informed that the suspect was taken into custody inside a clandestine drug laboratory.

IX. MAJOR CASE CRIME SCENES AT CLANDESTINE LABS

- A. When a major case crime scene is discovered at a clandestine drug lab, the field supervisor will ensure that Major Case notifications are made in the same timely manner as they normally would for such a major crime scene. Likewise, appropriate Narcotics Unit notifications will be made.
- B. When there is a major case crime scene located at a clandestine drug lab site, the Homicide Unit Commander is in command of the scene, in accordance with standard major case crime scene protocol.
- C. The Homicide Commander will consult with the Site Safety Officer to ensure that all activity at the scene complies with all standard safety guidelines.
- D. Officers must remember that safety is the primary concern when dealing with a clandestine laboratory scene, even when it is major case crime scene. Once safety concerns are met, officers will handle the crime scene in accordance with general order 40.5.