# Christiansburg Building Department

Requirements for Clandestine Labs (Methamphetamines)

## I. Introduction

This document contains the requirements for remediation of illegal methamphetamine laboratories within the Christiansburg Town Limits. Please be aware that manufacturing methods of methamphetamines and the chemical hazards associated with these activities may change. The health effects from numerous by- products produced by manufacturing these drugs are unknown.

## II. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide the responsible party with the minimum requirements for remediation of any structures used for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamines. The "responsible party" shall be the owner of the structure as listed on the Montgomery county tax records. The goal of remediation of illegal methamphetamine sites is to reduce the level of contaminants, so that the structure may be reoccupied.

## III. Penalties

Any owner of any structure within the Christiansburg corporate Limits that is found to be in violation of any requirements contained herein may be charged with a class 4 misdemeanor in accordance with the Christiansburg Town Code section 1-6.

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IV. Remediation Requirements

1. The remediation process shall not begin until after completion of the investigation by law enforcement.

2. After completion of the investigation, the Building Official shall have the structure secured to prevent unauthorized entry.

3. The property shall be posted by the Building Official as an "Unsafe Structure or Structures Unfit for Human Habitation" as referenced in the 2009 Virginia Maintenance Code section 105 and Article III of the Christiansburg Town Code . The posted notice shall remain on the structure for the entirety of the remediation process and shall only be removed by the Building Official, or a representative of the Building Department, or Town Manager.

4. Any person tampering with or removing such placecards or ignoring the warning therein contained shall be punished as provided by in Christiansburg Town Code Section 1-6.

5. In accordance with Section 9-52 of the Christiansburg Town Code, the property owner shall have 60 days from the date that the structure was posted to have the structure remediated and brought back into compliance with all applicable building codes. If after 60 days, the structure is still found to be in violation of the Virginia Maintenance Code or the Christiansburg Town Code, the Town Manager or Building Official may authorized to have the structure remediated at the cost and expense of such owner.

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6. Remediation of the structure shall be performed by companies that are licensed in the State of Virginia as a class A, B or C contractor, have a valid Town of Christiansburg business license and specialize in hazardous waste cleanup.

7. After completion of the remediation process, a final report shall be filed by the contractor with the Building Official's office certifying that structure is suitable for human habitation. The report shall be signed by the contractor and the home owner.

8. Post remediation sampling of the air quality shall be performed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist. The person or company responsible for the test shall submit a final report to the Building Official certifying that the structure is safe for reoccupation.

9. After the structure has been approved for reoccupation, a property maintenance inspection shall be performed by the Christiansburg Building Department. The structure shall be subject to all requirements of the Virginia Maintenance Code that is in effect at that time. The structure shall not be reoccupied until a new certificate of occupancy has been issued by the Building Official.

# CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

Clandestine Labs (Meth)

**Purpose**: Meth labs can be set up almost anywhere and are often found in private residences, motel and hotel rooms, apartments, trailers, automobiles, campgrounds and commercial establishments. Labs are also found in rural outbuildings, barns and other structures that may appear uninhabitable. There are many different ways to make meth, precursor chemicals, by-products and hazards associated with each product method differ. Listed below are the most common ways to manufacture methamphematine.

**Ammonia Lab Profile**:

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| **Precursor:** | Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine |
| **Product:** | d-Methamphetamine |
| **Method:** | Ephedrine reduction using anhydrous ammonia and lithium, sodium metal or elemental potassium |
| **Other Names:** | "Lithium-Ammonia" Lab, "Birch Reduction" Lab, "Nazi" Lab or "Sodium Metal" Lab |
| **Unique Hazards:** | • Sodium metal from molten sodium hydroxide flammability<br>• Irritant toxicity hazard from concentrated ammonia atmospheres<br>• Reaction of water with sodium or lithium metals<br>• Use of acid gas generators |
| **Variations:** | • Use of an acetone/dry ice bath to keep original anhydrous ammonia mixture from evaporating prematurely<br>• Recovery of lithium ribbon from camera batteries |

**P2P Lab Profile**:

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| **Precursor:** | Phenyl-2-Propanone |
| **Product:** | Mixtures of l-Methamphetamine (50%) and d-Methamphetamine |

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|---|---|
| | (50%) |
| **Method:** | P2P reduction using methylamine and mercuric chloride |
| **Other Names:** | "Amalgam" Lab, "Prope Dope" Lab or "Biker" Lab |
| **Unique Hazards:** | • Methylamine could cause severe eye and skin irritation and may cause blindness, flammable in high concentrations, a skin<br>• absorbent and a central nervous system (CNS) toxicant<br>• Lead acetate<br>• Use of highly toxic mercuric chloride<br>• Use of acid gas generators<br>• Occasional use of methylamine compressed gas cylinders |
| **Variations:** | Acidify the oil layer directly (i.e., delete solvent washing step) |

**Red Phosphorus Lab Profile:**

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|---|---|
| **Precursor:** | Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine |
| **Product:** | d-Methamphetamine |
| **Method:** | Ephedrine reduction using red phosphorus and hydriodic acid |
| **Other Names:** | "Red P" Lab, "Tweaker" Lab, "HI" Lab or "Mexican National" Lab |
| **Unique Hazards:** | • Phosphine gas production<br>• Conversion of red phosphorus to white phosphorus<br>• Use of acid gas generators<br>• Exothermic/incompatible reaction of red phosphorus<br>• Iodine vapors |
| **Variations:** | • Use iodine and water instead of hydriodic acid<br>• Use hypophosphorus acid instead of red phosphorus<br>• Use liquid from tablet extraction directly in reflux step |

When Officer(s) responds to a possible Methamphetamine Lab(s) in a dwelling or business or any other structures, their responsibilities are listed below:

- Officer shall assess the situation (at no time shall an Officer enter a known Laboratory, unless it is a life threaten situation to save a life or lives)
- Remove civilians, detainees from immediate area
- Officer(s) are to contact working supervisor(s)
- Officer(s) are to detain any detainees that are suspected of manufacturing Methamphetamine
- Assess detainees (may need for EMS to respond)
- If the Meth Laboratory is known to be active, contact fire department.
- If the suspected lab is in a dwelling, structure or business Officer(s) may need to evacuate the immediate area.
- Officer(s) shall be weary that possible detainees are contaminated from being inside the suspected lab as well
- Officer(s) that are with detainees that are possibility contaminated shall notify supervisors once on scene.

- Officer shall not if possible allow detainee(s) to be placed in patrol vehicle, until decontaminated (change of clothes, or cleaned by fire department) this is to protect from cross-contamination.

Supervisor(s) responsibilities:

- Contact Captain of Operations/Lieutenant of Special Operations to respond
- Supervisor(s) shall assess the situation
- Determine if evacuation of the immediate area is needed
- Contact narcotic unit(s)

Narcotic Units Responsibilities:

- Contact personnel that are trained to enter such dwelling, structure, business to determine the type of laboratory and size
- Obtain Search warrant if needed
- Contact Evidence Recovery Team (VSP, DEA, other)
- Determine if Tactical Team is needed (Tactical Team must be trained to make entry into Methamphetamine lab (VSP, other) (Conduct briefing with Tactical Team)
- Evidence Recovery personnel shall be contacted to respond if needed (Recovery of evidence and precursors, take samples of Lab(s), and precursors)
- Contact Hazmat to remove Meth Lab contents
- If children are involved unit(s) shall notify Department of Social Service to respond if needed
- Shall attempt to notify property owner, business owner or lease holder
- Notify building official (Provide Building Official with all necessary information as needed such as but not limited to: size of laboratory, location, type of Laboratory, people arrested and their status