

WHAT IS IT?

It is a powerful addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. A synthetic drug, methamphetamine is closely related chemically to amphetamine. It is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol. However, pure methamphetamine (hydrochloride) in the smokable form of the drug is called "L.A." because of its clear chunky crystals.

COMMON STREET NAMES:

Meth	Speed	Crank	Ice
Crystal	Crystal Meth	Quartz	Chalk
Zip	Glass	Chalk	Chicken Feed
Go-Fast	Cristy	Methless Quick	Shabu
Stove Top	Biker's Coffee	Vitamin C	CR
Trash	Yellow Bam	Poor Man's Cocaine	

WHAT ARE ITS EFFECTS?

Methamphetamine affects the central nervous system. It is a neurotoxin that negatively affects both dopamine and serotonin-containing neurons in the brain. Users may suffer potential cardiac and neurological damage after prolonged use. At the onset, it increases wakefulness and physical activity, increases heart rate and blood pressure, decreases appetite, increases respiration, hyperthermia, and creates a sense of euphoria. Prolonged use can cause other, more severe, central nervous system effects that include irritability, insomnia, confusion, tremors, anxiety,

extreme anorexia, paranoia, aggressiveness and violent behavior, auditory and visual hallucinations, respiratory problems, irregular heartbeat, and convulsions. Ultimately, its use can cause stroke, cardiovascular collapse, and death.

HOW IS IT USED?

Methamphetamine can be orally ingested, snorted, smoked, or injected. The drug alters mood in different ways, depending on how it is taken. Immediately after injecting or smoking methamphetamine, the user experiences a "rush" or "flash" that lasts for a few minutes and is often described as extremely pleasurable. This "rush" usually occurs within 5 to 10 seconds after dosing. Snorting or ingesting orally produces euphoria – a high, but not as intense as a "rush." Snorting produces its effects within 3 to 5 minutes, while ingesting usually takes about 15 to 20 minutes to feel the effects. The effects can often last 6 to 8 hours.

WHERE IS IT MANUFACTURED AND USED?

Methamphetamine is primarily produced in California and Mexico. Use is heaviest in Hawaii and California. Most Western states are seeing some increases in use, but to a much lesser degree. Although not yet prevalent in the Midwestern, Eastern, and Southern states there are indications that Meth use is on the rise in those regions.

CLANDESTINE LABS?

A clandestine (concealed) drug laboratory (Meth or Clan lab) is a mini-chemical lab used for only one purpose: to make illegal drugs quickly, cheaply, and secretly. These labs, in and of themselves are very dangerous because their operators, known as "cookers," use highly toxic and volatile chemicals noted for causing fires and explosions as well as being extremely poisonous to people and animals. Further, in order to protect themselves from law enforcement and bandits, operators of these illicit labs, often are well armed and/or set booby traps. Finally, the labs, which are temporary or portable, often are abandoned leaving many dangerous chemicals behind that contaminate the environment around the sites and are harmful to the neighborhood. Lab operators will often use rented homes, apartments, hotel and motel rooms, trailers and motor homes, houseboats, mini storage units, and even auto trunks and vans as their lab site.

INTERNET WEBSITES:

www.adp.ca.gov:

State of California, Department Alcohol and Drug Programs

www.no2meth.org:

County of San Diego, Methamphetamine Strike Force

www.nida.nih.gov:

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.usdoj.gov:

Drug Enforcement Agency, US Department of Justice

WARNING SIGNS OF METH MANUFACTURING:

Common signs of meth manufacturing include: strong chemical odors resembling the smell of cat urine or dirty socks; large amounts of trash; canisters of denatured alcohol; camping fuel; muratic acid; and/or lye; multiple packages of over-the-counter medications containing pseudoephedrine (most often cold/allergy tablets or diet aid; coffee filters stained red (from red phosphorous used to accelerate the manufacturing process); rock salt; plastic tubing and glass jars; flasks; and cookware.

WHAT DO YOU IF YOU FIND OR SUSPECT A LAB?

If you locate a lab or believe you have identified one, do the following: leave the area at once; contact law enforcement immediately; and, if possible, notify others if you believe they may be in immediate danger. You should never investigate a suspected clandestine lab. Call law enforcement.

HOW DO I GET ADDITIONAL INFO?

Check out our web site at:

www.emt.org/prevention.html

or

EMT

The EMT Group, Inc.

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Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: **(916) 983-9506**

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