

GENERAL ORDER, OPERATIONS, NUMBER 24
APRIL 3, 2001
WATERLOO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. SUBJECT:

Hazardous Substances / Clandestine Laboratories

B. PURPOSE:

To establish a systematic procedure in reporting, in order to reduce the danger to public health, safety and welfare from hazardous conditions and/or substances which creates an immediate or potential danger or safety within the city limits.

C. POLICY:

All officers and civilian employees of the Waterloo Police Department shall comply with the following procedures.

D. DEFINITIONS:

Hazardous Material – Hazardous material includes, but is not limited to, any material(s), (gases, liquids, or solids), that may be explosive, flammable, infectious, poisonous, radioactive, or corrosive and, under certain circumstances, might create an immediate or potential danger to public health or safety.

Hazardous Condition – Any situation involving the actual, imminent or probable spillage, leakage or release of a hazardous material onto the land, into a body of water or into the atmosphere, which creates an immediate or potential danger to public health or safety.

Clandestine Laboratories – Clandestine Laboratories (Labs) are illegal operations, which consist of chemicals, hazardous materials and related equipment that are necessary to manufacture illegal controlled substances. Examples of illegal controlled substances that might be manufactured in these types of Labs include, but are not limited to, methamphetamine, PCP, LSD, or crack cocaine.

E. PROCEDURES:

1. Responsibilities:

- a. The first officer, who arrives at the scene of the incident involving hazardous substances, shall notify the Black Hawk County Consolidated Dispatch Center and

request immediate assistance from Waterloo Fire Rescue.

- b. The officer shall then notify the Watch Commander / Street Supervisor.

2. Police Authority:

- a. If the circumstances so require, the Chief of Police or designee may:
 - 1. Evacuate persons from the site of the hazardous condition; and
 - 2. Establish perimeters, or other boundaries at or near the site of the hazardous condition. Said perimeters or boundaries shall be erected for the purpose of barring all persons, except those who are responsible for the cleanup or supervision of the cleanup of the hazardous condition, from entering the area.
- b. Officers responding to the accident should approach the scene as close as possible to secure the area, but should use EXTREME CAUTION in doing so. When possible, an officer should attempt to secure the following information:
 - 1. Type(s) of substances(s) involved.
 - 2. If any person has been exposed.
 - 3. If there is a fire or leakage or possibility of both.
 - 4. How much hazardous substance is involved.
 - 5. If any shipping papers are available.
- c. The officer should look for a frost line on the storage tank and also check to see if an odor is present. If an odor is present, the officer should not proceed any further, except if absolutely necessary to rescue injured persons.
- d. There shall be NO SMOKING by anyone in the security area.
- e. If a scene appears to involve hazardous substances, officers at the scene shall advise Dispatch and secure the area for Waterloo Fire Rescue personnel.
- f. Waterloo Fire Rescue personnel shall determine the hazardous substance involved and the degree of danger.

- g. The Street Supervisor shall assess the scene to determine if it is secured for a safe distance. For safety reasons, officers shall not allow anyone within this perimeter without authorization.
- h. Officers, in making rescue attempts, should use extreme caution. When possible, Waterloo Fire Rescue personnel with full protective equipment should be utilized for rescue.
- i. Do not touch, disturb, walk through any materials, liquid, dust, clouds, or smoke unless absolutely necessary.
- j. If large-scale evacuation is necessary, a command post shall be set up in the area of the spill, but a safe distance from contamination. All orders, directives and requests shall be funneled through the command post.
- k. The on-duty Supervisor should refer to the current “Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook” for current phone numbers and product identification information.

F. CLANDESTINE LABS:

Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs pose an imminent health threat to citizens, law enforcement, and fire rescue personnel. Any structure or vehicle may provide the capability to conceal the production of large quantities of methamphetamine or similar designer drugs.

The potential to manufacture methamphetamine may be indicated by the presence of various chemicals related to their composition. The following chemicals or equipment are associated with methamphetamine drug lab operations:

-Ether (starting fluid), **Lithium Battery** (parts or whole), **Methyl Alcohol**, such as “Heet” (a gas line antifreeze), **Acetone**, **Toluene**, **Denatured Alcohol**, and other flammable solvents.

-Hydrochloric Acid, **Sodium Hydroxide** (used in drain cleaners such as Drano, etc.), **Muratic Acid**, Salt, Aluminum Foil, plastic Gatorade bottles or other plastic bottles, Garden Sprayers, and red plastic gas cans used for **Hydrogen Chloride** gas generators.

-Anhydrous Ammonia, which can be stored in propane cylinders, plastic insulated coolers.

-Equipment such as glass beakers, jars, dishes, rubber or plastic hoses, funnels, scales for weighing and other unknown chemicals, rubber gloves, etc. are used in the manufacturing process.

1. Clandestine Lab Containment Procedure

- a. Officers noting the aforementioned chemicals or equipment within an occupied vehicle or structure should take immediate action:
 1. Remove all occupants and maintain their custody a safe distance from the immediate hazard. If you must touch or remove suspects or victims, consider them contaminated and wear rubber gloves for protection of the hands.
 - a. Vapors are extremely hazardous to health and may trigger fire or explosion.
 - b. Do not turn on light switches. Record names of all occupants, police/fire personnel, or citizens who unknowingly entered the suspected contaminated structure, vehicle, or area.
 - c. If structure is not occupied, remain at the scene at a safe distance, cordon off the area and maintain custody of the building or vehicle.
 2. A crime scene perimeter should be established as soon as practical, and the following personnel should be notified:
 - a. Watch Command / Street Supervisor
 - b. Tri-County Drug Enforcement Task Force Supervisor
 - c. Tri-County Drug Enforcement Task Force personnel will notify the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Narcotic Enforcement Chemists and State Lab Personnel.
 - d. Waterloo Fire Rescue personnel, if not already present, must be advised of the potential hazard upon arrival.
 3. Unless there is fire, smoke, or unknown fog emanating from within the vehicle or structure, or victims believed to be trapped or succumbed inside, **DO NOT ALLOW ENTRY**. State Law mandates the notification of certified Clandestine Lab Personnel.

- a. Upon determining the vehicle or structure is a clandestine drug lab, certified Clandestine Lab Personnel will arrange for clean-up of the location.
4. In the event of fire, smoke, fog or chemical odor, the perimeter may have to be moved a further distance from the hazard.
 - a. Neighboring houses or businesses may require immediate evacuation.
 - b. Upon establishing a safe perimeter, a controlled entry must be maintained. Log names of all emergency service personnel working within the contaminated area.
5. Certified Clandestine Lab Personnel
 - a. Certified Clandestine Lab personnel will determine if decontamination of suspects, law enforcement or support personnel and equipment will be necessary.
 - b. Clothing and equipment may be considered contaminated and have to be removed.
 - c. Police vehicles occupied by suspects or victims will be considered contaminated.

BY ORDER OF:

Thomas J. Jennings
Chief of Police