

Meth Lab Dump Site Information & Precautions

WARNING

Methamphetamine manufacturing in clandestine labs is a growing problem throughout the U.S., Minnesota, and Goodhue County. These labs produce between five and six ounces of hazardous waste for each ounce of methamphetamine produced. This waste is often dumped in wooded areas and along the road side.

With this information in mind the Goodhue County Adopt-A-Highway Program in cooperation with the Goodhue County Sheriff's Department has compiled a list of equipment and chemicals that are commonly used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. These lists were compiled in an attempt to assist volunteers in recognizing a possible methamphetamine dump site and its hazards.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Equipment:

- Glassware (including Pyrex and Corning dishes with burnt or white residue)
- Jugs, bottles, or gas cans with tubing attached
- Paper towels / coffee filters / cheese cloth with discoloration
- Funnels
- Rubber gloves
- Aluminum Foil
- Propane cylinders, coolers, thermoses, and other tanks or cylinders (these may contain Anhydrous Ammonia and can be very dangerous)
- Needles / Syringes

Chemicals:

- Alcohol (HEET, isopropyl, rubbing)
- Toluene, brake cleaner
- Starting fluid, ether
- Salt (table or rock)
- Red phosphorus (match books, road flares)
- Iodine (crystals, teat dip, liquid)
- Lithium batteries
- Gun scrubber
- Muriatic acid, sulfuric acid
- Red devil lye
- Acetone, denatured alcohol, paint thinner, Coleman fuel
- Cold tablet packages
- Peroxide

WHAT TO DO

If several of these items are located together or in the same general vicinity, you may have discovered a dump site.

**DO NOT OPEN CONTAINERS
OR HANDLE SUSPECT ITEMS.**

Call 911 or the Goodhue County Sheriff's Department at 651-385-3155. A Deputy can be dispatched to the scene to further investigate and evaluate the items.

On behalf of the Goodhue County's Adopt-A-Highway Program and the Goodhue County Sheriff's Department, thank you for your commitment to your community.

THINK SAFETY!!!

Wear gloves, sturdy footwear and safety vests.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY SAFETY TIPS

What to Remember

A highway is a dangerous place to be. Every crew member should possess these qualifications:

- At least 12 years of age, unless otherwise permitted.
- Mentally alert; good common sense.
- Good physical condition, including sight and hearing.
- Sense of responsibility for safety of self and others.
- Supervision for workers under age 16.

How to Plan

- Review safety precautions and take them seriously.
- Assign work teams and leaders before you reach the site. Distribute trash bags and use cell phones to communicate among work teams.
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles along the road. Park vehicles on the shoulder in advance of the area and on the same side of the highway that crews are working.
- Bring along a first aid kit. Identify the nearest hospital and know how to get there in an emergency.

- Don't overexert yourself. Bring along a supply of drinking water and take breaks when needed.

While You Work

- Never pickup syringes or hypodermic needles, weapons, hazardous materials or dead animals. Syringes or hypodermic needles placed in the trash bag could easily puncture the bag and cause serious injury. Note the location of any above listed items and report to County Public Works for disposal.
- Work only during daylight hours and during good weather.
- Work one side of the road at a time. Do not cross the road to get to your vehicle.
- Whenever possible, face oncoming traffic. Stay alert and be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency. Stay with your team.
- Do not wear headsets that could prevent you from hearing traffic or other hazards.
- Do not crush collected trash to make more room in the bag; broken or jagged objects could cause accidental injuries.
- Do not horse around or do anything to purposely distract drivers.
- Discontinue work in inclement weather, especially in times of reduced visibility and wet roads.

What to Avoid

- Stay away from construction sites, mowing activities, open water, ravines, bridges, overpasses or retaining walls that could be dangerous for pedestrians.
- Avoid poison ivy or other noxious weeds. Stay away from recently applied herbicides.
- Never try to pick up heavy, large or hazardous materials. Notify County Public Works for pickup.
- Avoid areas where herbicides were applied that day.

What to Wear

- Heavy gloves.
- Heavy leather shoes or boots.
- Light-colored clothing, brightly colored cap.
- High visibility vest.
Hat and long sleeves for sunburn;
sunscreen; insect or tick repellent

Who to Contact

Please contact us with your group name and the location of the trash bags when your clean-up is complete:

Goodhue County Public Works
2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-385-3025
Office Hours: Mon-Fri (7am-3:30pm)