

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 3010

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department to provide all personnel adequate training in Clandestine Drug Lab/ Marijuana Grow House responses.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: November 28, 2005

Date S.O.G. Revised: May 2, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G.: September 28, 2005

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GUIDELINE

1:00 **Purpose:**

1:01 To provide all personnel with guidelines for responding to and safely handling emergency incidents at Clandestine Drug Laboratories and Marijuana Grow Houses.

2:00 **Procedures:**

2:01 **Indications Of A Clandestine Drug Lab/ Marijuana Grow House**

- Blocked access
- Covered or blacked-out windows
- Unusual traffic or activities
- Excessive amounts of garbage
- Glass bottles with rubber tubing attached
- Glass cookware or frying pans with powdery residue
- Unusually large amounts of camping stove fuel, paint thinner, acetone, starting fluid, lye or drain cleaner
- Large amounts of lithium batteries
- Propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue
- Coffee filters with red stains, a white pasty substance or shiny white crystals
- Occupants smoking outside

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

- Strong smell of cat urine, ether or ammonia
- Large amounts of diet aids or cold medicine containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine

2:02 **What To Do If You Suspect You Are At A Drug Lab**

1) Single Family Dwelling or Vehicle Fires

- Establish a command post.
- Evacuate all personnel immediately.
- DO NOT interrupt the cooking process and do not touch any surfaces or materials.
- If possible extinguish the fire. Be aware that the use of water during fire suppression activities may cause a violent explosion or the release of toxic gases, as well the runoff water maybe contaminated. If suppression is necessary on a small fire a dry chemical agent should be used first.
- When using water for confinement and/or extinguishment, set all nozzles to a fog pattern and use as little water as possible. This will reduce the runoff of contaminated water and limit the amount of containment needed.
- The Incident Commander should request a Hazardous Material Response Team, Fire Prevention and the Police to attend the scene. The contact numbers for these agencies will be located in the RTO “Emergency Contact Book”.
- Ensure all personnel are wearing full protective clothing and SCBA.
- Evacuate structures on all four sides of the involved area, evacuate downwind and protect any exposures. A safe evacuation distance is 50m-100m.
- Direct other arriving personnel.
- Decontamination of all personnel and equipment shall take place as assessed by the Hazardous Material Response Team.

2) Multi Dwelling Fires

- Establish a command post.
- Evacuate all personnel immediately.
- DO NOT interrupt the cooking process and do not touch any surfaces or materials.
- The Incident Commander should request a Hazardous Material Response Team, Fire Prevention and the Police to attend the scene. The contact numbers for these agencies will be located in the RTO “Emergency Contact Book”.
- Ensure all personnel are wearing full protective clothing and SCBA.

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- Evacuate the entire structure or building on all four sides of the involved area, evacuate downwind and protect any exposures. A safe evacuation distance is 50m-100m.
- If possible extinguish the fire. Be aware that the use of water during fire suppression activities may cause a violent explosion or the release of toxic gases, as well the runoff water maybe contaminated. If suppression is necessary on a small fire a dry chemical agent should be used first.
- When using water for confinement and/or extinguishment, set all nozzles to a fog pattern and use as little water as possible. This will reduce the runoff of contaminated water and limit the amount of containment needed.
- Once the fire has been extinguished, leave the area and secure immediately.
- Do not do any salvage or overhaul operations.
- Decontamination of all personnel and equipment shall take place as assessed by the Hazardous Material Response Team.

3) Fire Inspection of Any Dwelling or Building

- Once a Clandestine Drug Lab/ Marijuana Grow House has been recognized during an inspection, leave the premises **immediately**.
- Do not touch anything or ask questions.
- Inform Dispatch to notify a Hazardous Material Response Team, Fire Prevention and the Police to attend. The contact numbers for these agencies will be located in the RTO “Emergency Contact Book”.
- Decontamination of all personnel and equipment shall take place as assessed by the Hazardous Material Response Team.

3:00 **Scope:**

3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.

3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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