



SOUTH COAST BRITISH COLUMBIA
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICE SERVICE

CLANDESTINE LABORATORY

Effective Date: September 12, 2005

POLICY

1. As a first responder to a Clandestine Laboratory (clan lab) incident, the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (SCBCTAPS) will develop procedures to safely handle clan labs.
2. SCBCTAPS response to incidents of clan labs will be coordinated with the Jurisdictional Police Department (JPD). The cleaning and dismantling of a clan lab will be under the authority of the specialized team from the relevant JPD.

REASON FOR POLICY

3. To ensure the safety of Members, other persons in the vicinity, and occupants of a clan lab, and that there is proper preservation of evidence.
4. To ensure that Members utilize available resources that have specialized training and equipment to clear and dismantle the clan lab.

PROCEDURES

Priority

5. The protection of life must be given prime consideration. Property is of secondary importance.

Note: *Clan laboratories are used for the production of drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamines. Clan labs pose risk to responding officers, other emergency responders, area residents and occupants. Clan labs contain toxic, caustic and volatile chemicals. There is a danger to anyone exposed through the inhalation of fumes and/or contact between chemicals and skin. There is also a danger of explosion through ignition of the blending of chemicals. Clan Labs may be recognized by the presence of precursors, chemicals, solvents, vessels, tubing, filters and heating/cooking devices. Clan labs can be mobile.*

Response

6. Members who discover a possible clan lab or respond to a clan lab report will follow these procedures:

1. A report of a clan lab requires a cautious and thorough investigation with due regard for safety.
 2. Be aware of:
 - a. booby traps (they may cause chemicals spills or explosions),
 - b. armed suspects in the clan lab (methamphetamine users may react violently with little provocation), and
 - c. guard dogs.
 3. Where a clan lab is inadvertently discovered, immediately evacuate and exit the building or specific location. Do not turn off heating devices. Do not open stoves or refrigerators. Do not touch or smell any equipment or chemicals.
 4. Contain and secure the clan lab.
 5. Evacuate the general area as required.
 6. Consider wind direction and remain upwind from the premise.
 7. Notify the Patrol Supervisor.
 8. Consider having a SCBCTAPS Member trained in clan lab investigations called to the scene, or if not available, the JPD.
 9. Consider having the Emergency Health Services (EHS) attend and standby.
 10. Notify the jurisdiction Fire Rescue Service (FRS). The FRS will attend and remain on standby in case of fire and explosion. The FRS will facilitate decontamination and may assist with evacuation.
 11. The Patrol Supervisor will notify the Watch Commander, and consider SCBCTAPS requirements for negotiators, Emergency Response Team, and RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response Team (CLEAR) or JPD specialized unit.
 12. The CLEAR or JPD specialized unit will:
 - a. enter the clan lab and clear it of suspects,
 - b. make the clan lab and chemicals safe,
 - c. identify and remove exhibits,
 - d. provide guidance to Members on issues related to safety and the investigation, and
 - e. notify Health Canada for scientific assistance.
 13. Notify Hazard Environmental Services Inc (HAZCO) when chemicals require disposal.
 14. All occupants of the clan lab may require decontamination by the FRS. Any building or vehicle that a contaminated person enters will also be contaminated. Movement should be minimized and decontamination should occur near the scene.
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7. Until the area is deemed safe, the role of Members will be to conduct the usual police duties but remain outside the clan lab until the specialized unit and the FRS have made the area safe.
 8. Members who believe that they have been exposed to toxic fumes will seek a medical evaluation as soon as possible. A Workers' Compensation Board Claim and Accident Investigation Form (M-180) should be submitted.
 9. Unless the JPD has assumed command of the investigation, the Member assigned as the primary investigator will be responsible for:

1. directing the costs of chemical disposal to Health Canada, and
 2. completing the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), Bylaw Notification and billing information.
10. No chemicals will be removed and stored in the Property/Exhibit Section unless authorized by the Watch Commander.