

METH SYMPTOMS

Methamphetamine - often called "meth" - is a highly addictive stimulant drug. It releases dopamine, a brain chemical, and stimulates neurological over-activity, elevating mood and body movement. Its toxic effects damage brain cells and other body tissues.

Over time, meth decreases naturally produced levels of dopamine, causing symptoms similar to those of Parkinson's disease, a severe movement disorder.

Meth causes acne, itchy skin, rashes and sores, insomnia, twitching, jerking, aggression, paranoia, hallucinations, extreme weight loss, dangerously high body temperature, increased heart rate, seizures, organ damage and strokes.

METH IS YOUR NEIGHBOR

Between May 2004 and May 2005, 232 people in Washington State died from meth-related causes, a 14 percent increase from the previous year. During the same period, police detained 517 people on meth-related DUI charges, an increase of 22 percent.*

In a July 2005 survey, 75% of Northwest sheriffs said Meth was the most serious drug problem. Law enforcement officers find close links between meth use and property crimes, such as auto and identity theft.*

*Source: *Reichert to Seek Funds to Combat Meth Use*, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 7/11/05

What is METH WATCH?

METH WATCH training and information will help you:

- Identify Meth precursor chemicals and Meth labs
- Recognize and report when someone is purchasing, stealing or otherwise gathering materials to "cook" Meth
- Identify when children may be at-risk from living where Meth is being manufactured or used

METH WATCH shows you how to recognize Meth dumps or labs and prevent injuries from contact with hazardous Meth byproducts and chemicals

METH WATCH helps you to identify the purchase or theft of Meth precursors and to report it

METH WATCH training helps you recognize when children may be "drug-endangered"

King County METH WATCH is a project of King County Meth Action Team, Northwest HIDTA, Washington State Meth Initiative and Seattle Neighborhood Group

Meth tipline: 1-888-609-METH

CALL 911 to report Meth & labs

King County
Meth Watch





King County Meth Action Team

cooking up a meth solution

King County Meth Action Team (MAT) is a coalition of community members, prevention & treatment professionals and law enforcement officers who meet bi-monthly to share information and strategize on reducing meth abuse in the county.

To be notified about King Co. MAT meetings or for more information about the MAT, contact one of the Meth Action Team Co-chairs:

Chief Richard Krogh, Criminal Investigations Division, King County Sheriff's Office; phone (206) 296-7549.

Laura Edwards, King County Community Organizing Program, email: Laura.Edwards@metrokc.gov or ph (206) 296-5250.

Get involved in Meth Watch where you live or work:

- ✗ Take a METH WATCH training,
- ✗ Spread the word about METH WATCH to people who may encounter Meth – related activity, labs or dumpsites: park employees, social workers, plumbing & electrical, construction and roadway cleanup workers, property managers & realtors, hotel/motel employees, police, fire & EMS workers, retail employees, employees of vehicle/storage rental firms, outdoor sports enthusiasts and those in other “at –risk” occupations.
- ✗ If you know someone who works where ingredients to make Meth are being purchased or stolen, tell them about METH WATCH.
- ✗ Tell people who work with children about METH WATCH. Kids often develop health & social problems if they live where Meth is cooked or used or if their caregivers abuse Meth.
- ✗ Become a METH WATCH trainer.
- ✗ Get involved in the King County Meth Action Team (MAT): call 296-7549.

To schedule a Meth Watch workshop, email lois@sngi.org or call 323-3150

Why is Meth so dangerous?

Meth chemicals create explosions and fires and release toxic gases. They contaminate homes, soil & water, burn skin and lungs and cause rashes and health problems.

Meth recipes use solvents, salts, metals and corrosives including acetone, starting fluid, Freon, hexane (Coleman fuel), methanol, toluene, white gas, xylene, anhydrous ammonia, hydroiodic acid (iodine), hydrochloric acid (muriatic acid), phosphine, sodium hydroxide (lye), sulfuric acid (drain cleaner), iodine, lithium metal, sodium metal, and red and yellow phosphorus.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT METH?

- Get involved in prevention efforts
- Learn how to identify Meth in the community
- Be alert: Report suspicious activity (Do NOT confront suspects!)
- Call 911 to report a suspected Meth lab or related activity
- OR call 1-888-609-METH (6384) (confidential hotline)
- Tell others about Meth Watch

For METH WATCH information:

Seattle Neighborhood Group

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