

## CONTENTS

- Number of Drug Lab Incidents Decreased in 2014
- Urban Drug Legends
- Up in Smoke
- Beyond Meth
- Danger: Drugs Under Construction
- Dazed and Confused
- Recently Reported Drug Lab & MGO Explosions & Fires in the U.S
- Stranger than Fiction
- Future of CSAlert
- Bits & Pieces
- Around the World

## CONTRIBUTORS

Brian Escamilla, NES

## EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION



CSAlert is produced by NES, Inc. on behalf of CLIA.  
NES production staff includes:

Don Rothenbaum  
Kyle Rothenbaum



## NUMBER OF DRUG LAB INCIDENTS DECREASED IN 2014

The number of drug lab incidents including dump sites reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) for 2014 was 8720, a 27.4% decrease from 2013. Although this number will probably change slightly as EPIC works through all of the 2014 reports, it is still a sizable decrease compared to the previous 4 years and just 10.8% more than

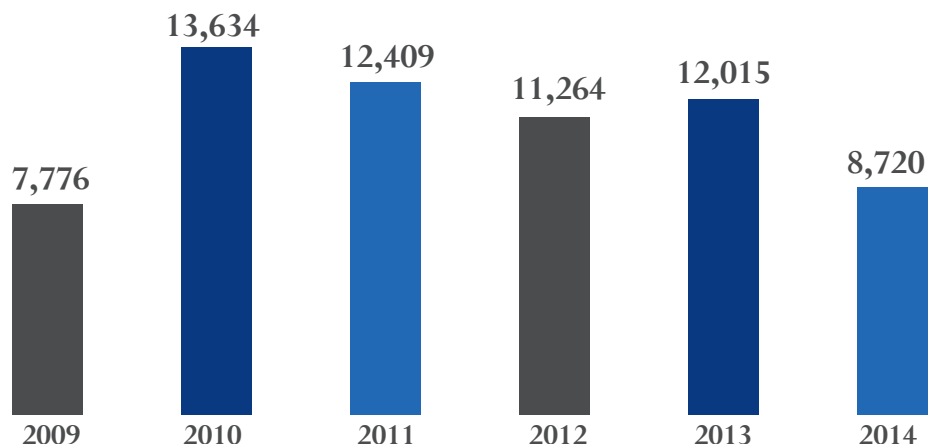


Figure 1: Number of Clan Lab Incidents per year.

2009. Looking at the labs reported by each state, the Midwest and Southeast of the U.S. continues to be the primary source of clan lab activity in the country. This may be due to the availability of drugs coming from sources outside of the United States.

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: THERE ARE OVER 30 ISSUES OF CSALERT AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Every issue of CSAlert contains valuable information aimed at keeping you, your fellow law enforcement officers, and the public safe. Back issues of CSAlert are available on NES' website, just use the credentials provided to access 10 years of clandestine laboratory safety reporting.

CSAlert can always be found at:  
[http://nesglobal.net/clan\\_lab\\_newsletter](http://nesglobal.net/clan_lab_newsletter)

Username: **CLIA2012**

Password: **RMIN1987**

Note: Username and Password are  
**CASE SENSITIVE**

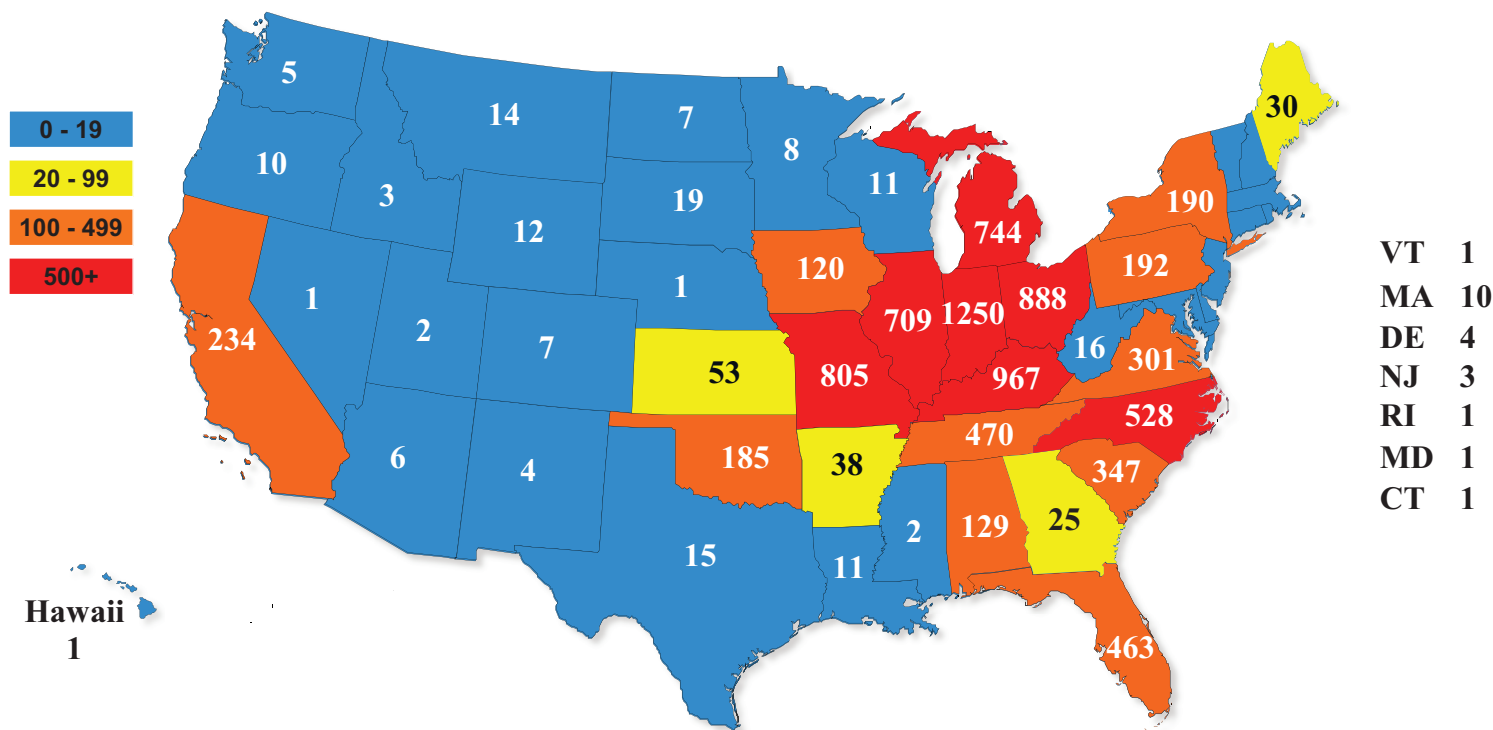


Figure 2: Number of report drug labs incidents per state (49 States reporting)

Most of the drug labs in the U.S. continue to produce methamphetamine in small scale (less than 2 ounces). The primary method of manufacture continues to be the one-pot or shake-and-bake method. There is still a large amount of methamphetamine coming into the country from Mexico and this has led to a large number of “icing” or “meth conversion” labs domestically. The one drug and process that is gaining in popularity in the country is butane honey oil (BHO) and although there are other chemicals now being used to extract the resin (propane, CO<sub>2</sub>, and alcohol) the end product is the same – a concentrated form of marijuana resin.

Looking forward, 2015 will likely continue to show the same trends as last year. Medical dispensary sales and the popularity of the marijuana resin along with the availability of the reagents and precursors necessary to manufacture methamphetamine will continue to be our challenges for the coming year. The current production trends are simple processes (one-pot, BHO, and conversion labs), but the risk of fire or explosion to law enforcement investigating these scenes is extremely elevated. First responding personnel need to ensure they recognize all of the hazards and are using the proper personal protective equipment and calibrated air monitoring equipment.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Brian Escamilla** is the Clan Lab Program Manager for NES and a retired forensic chemist with the Sacramento County Crime Lab.

You can reach Brian by email at:  
[bescamilla@nesglobal.net](mailto:bescamilla@nesglobal.net)



## Webinar: Bath Salts, Spice, and other Synthetics

**Date:** March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am PST

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Price:** \$49 per student

**Instructor:** Brian Escamilla

Over the last 10 years many new drugs have emerged that mimic various schedule I and schedule II controlled substances. As these new drugs emerge, it becomes difficult for law enforcement to recognize and prosecute these cases. This course will cover the history, toxicology, legality, and the new types of drugs surfacing specifically:

- Substituted cathinones (bath salts)
- Synthetic cannabinoids (spice products)
- Designer phenethylamines (2C and N-Bomb compounds)

Individuals who complete this course will have a better understanding of why these drugs have become popular, what legally can be enforced, and any safety issues regarding investigations with these drugs. This course is highly recommended for any personnel who investigate narcotic cases or clandestine laboratories.

**To Enroll go to:**

<http://nesglobal.net/bath-salt-webinar.html>

**or call NES at (800) 637-2384**

Once you have purchased your course you will receive instructions for attending the webinar

# URBAN DRUG LEGENDS

MIKE CASHMAN

Big foot spotted in Washington State! Elvis found living in a trailer in Florida! Gas in California going for a \$ 1.00 a gallon! Chicago Cubs winning the World Series!

These are urban legends: they never happened and will never happen.

- Aquarium Meth
- Gun Blue Meth
- Easter Bunny Meth
- String Meth
- Hoppes # 9 Meth

These are names of meth manufacturing recipes that have been floating around the methosphere for over 30 years. Before the onset of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 the urban legend of manufacturing methamphetamine utilizing gun bluing and other chemicals has existed. As a young clan labite, I remember interviewing defendants that said they (bad guys) were manufacturing methamphetamine safely using a “cold cook” method that involved no heat source and therefore it was “safe”. These recipes spread quicker than a zombie epidemic. With the passage of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005, these alternative methods took off. The urban legends of these aquarium, dope on rope, gun blue labs spread among the meth cooks.

These recipes have a few items in common, some nothing in common, some of these common items include:

- Charcoal
- Household ammonia
- Gun bluing
- Aquariums
- Guitar strings
- Mop strings

Some of the methamphetamine recipes use different types of acids, such as phosphoric acid, nitric acid and some even call for the use of pseudoephedrine. These methods call for these chemicals to be mixed in a cooler, an aquarium, or a bucket. Prior to container being sealed the meth cook attaches to the top of the bucket, aquarium or cooler, mop head strings or guitar strings. These strings are left dangling in the solution. The containers are sealed then according to the recipe you are following they are buried in the ground for 28, 30, or even 90 days.

After letting your concoction sit for the required period of time your container is removed from the ground and the crystals generated by your chemical stew are removed and ingested by the methamphetamine user.



What are they smoking or snorting? Well it is not methamphetamine. Let's take a quick look at the MSDS for some of the chemicals involved:

## HOPPES # 9

**Contains ethanol, oleic acid, amyl acetate and ammonium hydroxide**

## PERMA BLUE Liquid Gun Bluea

**Selenious acid, nitric acid, cupric sulfate, polyoxyethylene, stearyl wax, water**

Extensive research conducted by Brian Escamilla shows that that these methamphetamine manufacturing methods are myths and they do not make methamphetamine. We do not know exactly what they are making due to the haphazard recipes used by the cooks. What physical effects on a person are again are unknown, there have been no long term toxicological studies on these “cold cook” methods.

The point of this article is that you will be responding to calls like the gun blue lab or an aquarium lab. It is important that you were the proper PPE and respiratory protection in investigating these types of unknown labs. Use the proper air monitoring equipment in responding and last but not least use your access to the internet from your smart phone to help identify and classify what you are observing. Remember you can look up, and access the SDS for the chemicals and products you find and hopefully identify what type of lab is present. In this day and age you can run into all kinds of illicit lab operations from synthetic drugs, chemical and biological weapons and improvised explosives. An aquarium methamphetamine lab can look like any of these other types of labs. These urban legend existed in the past and will certainly be present in the future.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Mike Cashman is a former United States Marine and retired DEA Special Agent. While with the DEA Mr. Cashman investigated and dismantled clan labs and trained over 20,000 individuals in clan lab safety. You can reach Mike by email at: [mcashman@nesglobal.net](mailto:mcashman@nesglobal.net)

# UP IN SMOKE

## CONGRESS ENDS BAN ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Buried in the 1600 page federal spending measure passed in December 2014 is a provision to end the federal government's ban on medical marijuana.

This major change in the government's drug policy illustrates the growing shift in the public's view about medical marijuana. 32 states and the District of Columbia now allow medical marijuana and most of were voted on by the residents of those states. In addition many lawmakers see this issue as a states' rights to decide their own path on the issue without the intervention of the federal government.

## NEW EDITION AVAILABLE

### Clandestine Laboratory Processing Field Guide (Brown Book) 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition –\$15.95

Our newly updated Clandestine Laboratory Processing Field Guide (Brown Book) is a comprehensive tool for clan lab officers in the field who are sampling different types of media, and cover. Inside you will find information about:

- **Critical samples for different lab types including how and what to sample**
- **Evidence staging and documentation**
- **Requirements for transportation of samples and wastes**
- **Color tests and how to test for unknown drugs**

This new version has been revised to include the latest clan lab trends as well as adding profiles for:

- **One-pot labs**
- **BHO labs**
- **DMT labs**
- **Conversion labs**

Order online at:

<http://nesglobal.net/clandestine-laboratory-processing-field-guide.html>

## Marijuana Grow House Operations

A recent study released by Dr. John Martyny and his team at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado found that marijuana grow houses do pose a threat to the health of law enforcement and public safety personnel. Read the full report at:

<http://nesglobal.net/files/MartynyIndoorGrowStudy.pdf>

NES, the national leader in clandestine laboratory safety training, has delivered **Marijuana Grow House Operations** training for the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC) and at NES' training facility in Folsom, California. Attendees have included agents from federal, state and local fire and law enforcement officers from across the United States, Canada and the UK.

NES will deliver an on-site training program for your agency or we can assist you in developing your own training program covering critical safety information needed working marijuana grow houses and **butane honey oil labs**.

Call us at **800-NES-ADVISE** and we will be happy to assist you and your agency with your **Marijuana Grow House Operations** training needs.



The **Midwest Counterdrug Training Center**, located on Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa, offers a wide variety of counter drug law enforcement classes. These classes are free\* to qualified law enforcement personnel. Lodging and meals are provided to students outside a 50-mile radius from the course location.

NES is proud to be associated with MCTC and currently teach the following courses at Camp Dodge and other locations throughout the U.S.:

- Clandestine Laboratory Safety Training
- Clandestine Laboratory Safety Refresher
- Marijuana Grow House Operations
- One-pot Cooks
- Site Safety Officer

### 2015 COURSE SCHEDULE COMING SOON

For more information on MCTC and their courses and to register for any of the above classes, visit their web site at [www.counterdrugtraining.com](http://www.counterdrugtraining.com)

\*Students are responsible for travel to and from the course location.



# BEYOND METH

## 6.5 LBS OF BATH SALTS FROM CHINA SEIZED IN MAINE

Synthetic cathinones, referred to “Bath Salts”, was found in a parcel from China being delivered to a Maine resident. The parcel contained 6.5 lbs of alpha-pyrrolidinopentiophenone ( $\alpha$ -PVP) valued at \$450,000. Earlier, Maine Department of Public Safety, Drug Enforcement Agency seized more than a \$1 million of bath salts during a bail check in Hermon.

## DMT LAB DISCOVERED IN WISCONSIN

A DMT (N,N-dimethyltryptamine) lab was seized in Appleton, Wisconsin by the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LWMEG). The team was looking for marijuana when evidence of the DMT lab was uncovered. After discovering the lab, the Appleton Fire Department, Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration was brought in to assist LWMEG process and dismantle the lab. Only five DMT labs have been found in Wisconsin in the last five years.

## FENTANYL DEATHS REPORTED IN CANADA

Four deaths due to fentanyl overdoses were reported in Abbotsford, British Colombia last August. A total of 13 deaths occurred in B.C. in just the first four months of 2014, 12 in 2013 and six in 2012. The fentanyl is showing up as a cut in heroin and is believed to be illicitly manufactured. In early 2013, Montreal police seized approximately 300,000 fentanyl pills at an illicit lab in the area. The fentanyl from that lab was implicated in a number of fatal overdoses in Montreal. The U.S. and Canada are not the only countries where fentanyl has been manufactured and sold as a cut or even as a supplement to heroin. In 2011, Slovakian police seized a lab manufacturing fentanyl and over 4 kilograms of the drug.

## RARE STEROID MANUFACTURING LAB SEIZED IN TEXAS

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, assisted by Texas Department of Public Safety and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, executed a search warrant on an illegal steroid lab in Mixon, Texas in July 2014. Containers of Androl (oxymetholone), D-bol (methandrostebolone), and Cialis along with a variety of laboratory equipment and a notebook of recipes for the manufacture of steroids were seized at the lab.

## PCP EXPLOSION IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

An explosion in September 2014 in Kansas City is being attributed to PCP. Whether or not the explosion was caused by the use of “wet” PCP or a lab manufacturing PCP is unclear. A 28-year-old man told Kansas City Police he was “smoking my wet” when it blew up. Four officers who entered the house did not have respiratory protection. As a precaution, all four were examined at a nearby hospital and later released.

## AB-PINACA SHOWING UP IN ALABAMA

AB-Pinaca (N-[(1S)-1-(aminocarbonyl)-2-methylpropyl]-1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide), a synthetic cannabinoid, has been found for the first time in Alabama. Etowah County Sheriff's Office found the drug during a recent arrest in Smith Institute. About 2 kg of the drug valued at more than \$100,000 was seized. AB-Pinaca is extremely dangerous and is known to have caused renal, lung and circulatory failure in users.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY OVER “SMACKED”

A state of emergency was declared by New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan after 44 overdoses linked to “Smacked”, a synthetic cannabinoid. The drug had been sold in convenience stores in the state. The state of emergency authorizes the state to investigate stores selling the compound and quarantine the product. Police in Manchester found “Smacked” being sold in three convenience stores and all three stores had their business licenses revoked.

## CLOUD 9 BEING SMOKED IN E-CIGARETTES

Cloud 9, a substituted cathinone commonly referred to as a “Bath Salt”, is manufactured in China and sold throughout the world. It was more common for users to snort the drug. With the increased popularity of e-cigarettes, a number of users are smoking the drug in liquid form. Cloud 9 is extremely dangerous, especially when it's smoked. In September, six Michigan teenagers were hospitalized after trying the drug. The drug raises blood pressure, makes users paranoid, produces hallucinations and users often get suicidal thoughts. Overdoses have caused the users' heart to stop.

## DMAA-LIKE DESIGNER SIMULANT FOUND IN PRE-WORKOUT SUPPLEMENTS

A recent study conducted by Dr. Pieter Cohen of the Harvard Medical School found 1,3-dimethylbutylamine (DMBA) in 12 out of 14 dietary supplements tested. The researchers tested products that listed the ingredient AMP Citrate, 4-amino-2-methylpentan-3-amine citrate or 4-methyl-2-pentanamine citrate. DMBA is a stimulant similar to methylhexanamine (1,3-dimethylamylamine), commonly known as DMAA. DMAA is performance enhancing drug has been banned for use by sports authorities and has been banned by a number of countries. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration determined the drug did not qualify as a dietary supplement and banned DMAA. The Council for Responsible Nutrition formally requested FDA to investigate the regulatory status of this ingredient, marketed as Amp or Amp Citrate.

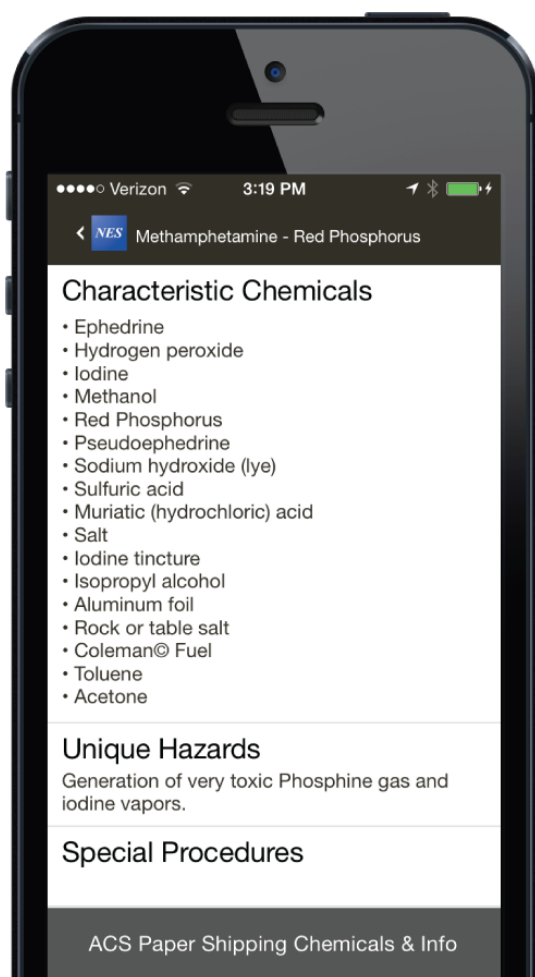
# Introducing the Clan Lab Safety App

Available now for iOS and Android devices

FOR LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
PROFESSIONALS

DETERMINE  
CLAN LAB TYPES

LOOK UP  
SAFETY INFO



**\$19.99** - Based on our Blue Book, *NES' Clan Safety App* puts important clan lab safety information on to your mobile device for quick reference while in the field. This app contains safety information for the most common clan labs law enforcement encounter:

- 3 methamphetamine lab types
- 8 MDMA lab types
- PCP and
- Butane honey oil labs

This app can search chemicals to find the possible lab type and display that lab's safety information or pull up the lab type directly.

Included in this app is shipping paper information for each chemical for the **Authorized Central Storage** program, simplifying the process of filling out a correct shipping paper while in the field.

Scan the QR code for your device or search the iTunes App Store or Google Play Store to purchase your copy today.



iOS Devices



Android Devices

# DANGER: DRUGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## TULSA COUNTY DEPUTY EXPOSED DURING TRAFFIC STOP

A Tulsa County, Oklahoma deputy required medical attention after being exposed to chemicals during a traffic stop in July. The deputy found a black pouch during a search of a vehicle and opened it, releasing chemicals used in meth manufacturing. The deputy was treated by paramedics at the scene.

## LAB EXPLOSION SENDS THREE OFFICERS TO HOSPITAL

Three Kansas City, Missouri police officers were exposed to meth lab chemicals when lab chemicals caused an explosion in July. The three officers were inside the home when the explosion occurred. Witnesses said they saw smoking coming out of the home when the officers and several children ran out. The officers were kept overnight at a local hospital and released the following day.

## LANTANA, FLORIDA DEPUTY EXPOSED AFTER DISCOVERING METH LAB

A deputy with the Lantana Sheriff's Office was sickened responding to a domestic disturbance call at a local apartment building in September. The responding deputy noticed several bottles with white residue in it before he fell ill. The Sheriff's Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team responded and discovered the apartment was being used to manufacture methamphetamine.

## DUI STOP LEADS TO METH LAB DISCOVERY AND EXPOSURE OF A DEPUTY

A Barren County, Kentucky deputy was conducting a search of a vehicle after detecting the smell of alcohol in the vehicle. During the search, the deputy found a cooler and upon opening the cooler was exposed to chemicals from two one-pot containers. The deputy was treated at a local hospital and released. It is not known whether the one-pot cooks were active or not.

## CLAIM FOR MEDICAL CARE DENIED BY APPEAL COURT

A Mitchell City, Indiana police officers claimed medical problems from his work dismantling meth labs and filed a claim under the "hurt-on-duty" clause. The clause requires cities to pay for the care of officers who are injured or who contract an illness in the line of duty. A trial court ruled in the officer's favor but the ruling was appealed by the city. The Court of Appeals reversed the earlier determination in September, ruling the officer failed to exhaust his remedies through worker's compensation before seeking relief under the injured-on-duty statute. The officer's attorneys are considering a petition to seek transfer to the Indiana Supreme Court.

## THREE ASHEBORO, N.C. OFFICERS CONTACT METH LAB CHEMICALS, REQUIRE TREATMENT

A meth lab was discovered when three Asheboro Police Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a local apartment complex. The officers discover a lab inside the apartment they were called to and during their search came into contact with an unknown substance which was associated with the meth lab. The Asheboro Fire Department hazmat team responded and decontaminated the three officers and transported them to a local hospital for evaluation.

## ADVANCED CLAN LABS: BEYOND THE BASICS (24-HR) – \$595

Move beyond the basics and learn about the manufacturing of over 12 clandestine drugs. In this intensive three day course you will learn about the history, production methods, effects, sampling, safety, and past, present and future trends of over 12 illicit drugs. This advanced course is for experienced clan lab investigators and site safety officers who want to expand their knowledge of drug manufacturing methods and to prepare themselves for new drugs and current trends affecting the United States

This course is taught by **Brian Escamilla**, a former criminalist and forensic chemist, and an expert in clandestine drug chemistry and manufacturing in the United States.

Due to its popularity, early enrollment is recommended.

Dates:	Location:	Time:
March 23-25, 2015*	Folsom, CA	8am - 5pm
August 24-26, 2015	Folsom, CA	8am - 5pm

\*Clan Lab Chemistry course immediately follows see ad on page X

This course provides critical coverage of:

- Bath Salts and Other Designer Drugs
- Cocaine Conversion
- DMT and Tryptamines
- Ecstasy (MDMA)
- Euphoria
- Fentanyl
- GHB
- Heroin Conversion
- LSD
- Methcathinone
- Mushrooms
- The One-Pot Method
- PCP
- Synthetic Cannabinoids

Enroll online now or call NES at (800) 637-2384

<http://nesglobal.net/training/training-clan-lab/advanced-clan-labs-beyond-the-basics.html>

# DAZED AND CONFUSED

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN METH AND ALCOHOL USE

University of California scientists studied whether there was a relationship between meth and alcohol use among methamphetamine users and found that binge drinking increased the odds of same day meth use by 4.22 to 4.50 times. The research was published in the September issue of Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

## NEW RESEARCH CONTINUES TO REVEAL HARMFUL EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA USE.

Researchers from Harvard and Northwestern University found that higher THC levels found in today's marijuana is altering the brain in different ways and at faster rates than previously thought. Younger marijuana users are especially susceptible to damage from marijuana use and that higher THC levels are linked to paranoia and psychosis.

In another recent study conducted in Australia and New Zealand and published in the September issue of The Lancet Psychiatry journal, researchers found that teens who use marijuana daily before the age of 17 were more than 60% less likely to graduate high school. The research also found that heavy marijuana users increased the odds they would develop depression and become dependent on welfare. According to a 2013 survey, Monitoring the Future, conducted in the U.S., 7% of high school seniors are daily or near-daily users.

Research conducted by principal investigator Dr. Francesca Filbey at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas found the younger an individual starts using marijuana, the more pronounced its effects. The study found it lowered IQ by an average of 5 points compared to non users.

Users are not the only ones affected by marijuana use. A study led by Matthew Springer, Ph.D., a cardiovascular researcher and associate professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco's Cardiology Division found that second-hand marijuana smoke may damage blood vessels as much as tobacco smoke. In the study, blood vessel function in lab rats dropped 70% after 30 minutes of exposure to second-hand marijuana smoke. Reduced blood function could raise the chance of developing atherosclerosis and lead to a heart attack. Atherosclerosis is the buildup of plaque in the arteries, restricting blood flow.

The U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced its intent to conduct a study on the effects marijuana has on the brains of developing adolescents in August 2014. NIDA is alarmed by the policy shift today marijuana use in states like Colorado and Washington and the recent studies that suggests significant effects of marijuana on the brain of children and young adults. NIDA is working with other organizations to carry out a study on 10,000 adolescents. Children starting at age 10 and every two years for 10 years will have their brains imaged, perform psychiatric and cognitive tests and have other factors such as genetics and environmental exposures examined. The study is expected to cost more than \$300 million.

## Online Meth Awareness Training – \$49

Designed to inform non-clandestine laboratory trained local and state law enforcement on the dangers associated with methamphetamine production and their users. This course is designed for first on-scene law enforcement personnel, however, class is also useful to other first responders.

This course uses an interactive comic style film noir setting to facilitate students' education of the dangers of methamphetamine and its production.

Register at:  
<http://nesglobal.net/training/training-clan-lab/cops-meth-awareness-online.html>  
or call NES at (800) 637-2384

## Now Available

### Clan Lab First Responder Field Guide 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

Our newly updated Clan Lab First Responder Field Guide (Yellow Book) contains vital safety information for those who respond to or may respond to clan labs.

Inside you will find information about:

- **Lab profiles and their specific hazards.**
- **Physical and chemical hazards.**
- **Common indicators of clan labs.**

This new version has been revised to include the latest clan lab trends as well as adding profiles for:

- **One-pot labs**
- **BHO labs**
- **DMT labs**



# RECENTLY REPORTED DRUG LAB EXPLOSIONS & FIRES IN THE U.S.

## METH LABS

There were 29 total fires with an average of 1.45 per week in the period from July to November

### JULY

**7/5 – Sioux Falls, SD** – vehicle explosion  
2 injured / 2 arrested

**7/6 – Lafayette, IN** – house explosion  
1 injured / No arrests

**7/10 – Galesburg, IL** – house fire  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**7/19 – Gaylord, MI** – storage unit explosion  
1 injured / 1 arrested

**7/19 – Lost Creek, WV** – house fire  
2 injured / 1 officer injured / 1 arrested

**7/19 – Madison, TN** – apartment explosion  
2 injured / 2 arrested

### AUGUST

**8/5 – Warsaw, IN** – house explosion  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**8/14 – Parkersburg, WV** – house fire  
No injuries / 3 arrested

**8/11 – Athens, AL** – house explosion  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**8/21 – Binghamton, NY** – apartment fire  
No injuries / 2 arrested

**8/31 – Richmond, IN** – house explosion  
No injuries / No arrests

**8/31 – Uhrichsville, OH** – house fire  
No injuries / No arrests

### SEPTEMBER

**9/3 – Clarksville, TN** – hotel fire  
No injuries / 2 arrested

**9/3 – Terre Haute, IN** – lab fire  
No injuries / No arrests

**9/3 – Sheridan Township, MI** – house explosion  
1 injured / 1 arrested

**9/12 – Buncombe County, NC** – mobile home fire  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**9/14 – Richardsville, KY** – house fire  
No injuries / No arrests

**9/17 – Sikeston, MO** – vehicle explosion  
1 injured / 1 arrested

**9/17 – Clarksville, TN** – apartment explosion  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**9/18 – Marion County, IL** – trash fire  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**9/20 – Nashville, KY** – house fire  
2 injured / 2 arrested

### OCTOBER

**10/1 – Rockbridge County, CA** – rest stop fire  
1 death / No arrests

**10/26 – Cass County, NE** – lab explosion  
1 injured / No arrests

**10/28 – Mobile, AL** – motel explosion  
No injuries / No arrests

### NOVEMBER

**11/13 – Garner, NC** – house explosion  
1 injured / 3 arrested

**11/22 – Jamestown, NY** – house fire  
1 injured / no arrests

**11/28 – Franklin County, MO** – lab explosion  
1 injured / no arrests

**11/30 – Forest Hill, MD** – house fire  
1 injured / no arrests

## MGO FIRES

There were 32 total fires with an average of 1.6 per week in the period from July to November

### JULY

**7/1 – Richmond, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/2 – San Bernardino, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/4 – Renton, WA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/12 – Springfield, MA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/15 – Thornton, CO** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/17 – Los Angeles, CA** – warehouse fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/18 – San Francisco, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/24 – Anaheim, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**7/28 – Midland, TX** – house explosion  
No injuries / 1 arrest

**7/29 – Suwanne County, FL** – house fire  
No injuries / 1 arrested

## AUGUST

**7/1 – Richmond, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

## SEPTEMBER

**9/5 – McKinleyville, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / No arrests

**9/9 – Vacaville, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**9/18 – Rochester, MN** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**9/21 – Moreno Valley, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

## OCTOBER

**10/2 – Vallejo, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**10/5 – San Bernardino, CA** – commercial building fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**10/7 – Detroit, MI** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**10/9 – Orange County, FL** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**10/12 – Missoula, MT** – apartment explosion  
1 injured / 1 arrested

**10/14 – Elmore, VT** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**10/22 – Brooklyn, NY** – house explosion  
1 death / no arrests

**10/31 – Walnut Creek, CA** – apartment BHO explosion  
2 injuries / No arrests

## NOVEMBER

**11/2 – Plumas Lake, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**11/4 – Ukiah, CA** – BHO fire  
2 injured / 2 arrested

**11/10 – Spokane, WA** – house fire  
No injuries / No arrests

**11/14 – Rancho Sequoia, CA** – house BHO explosion  
No injuries / no arrests

**11/16 – Livingston, CA** – house fire  
No injuries / no arrests

**11/19 – Spokane, WA** – mobile home BHO fire  
1 injured / no arrests

**11/20 – Muscoy, CA** – house BHO explosion  
1 death / 1 injured / no arrests

**11/25 – Germantown, NY** – house fire  
No injuries / 1 arrested

**11/30 – Oroville, CA** – BHO explosion  
3 injuries / no arrests

## STRANGER THAN FICTION

### EAT MY SHORTS

An inmate in a Kentucky jail died after eating methadone soaked underwear. The deceased inmate's cellmate was charged with murder for smuggling in and giving the deceased the contraband underwear. The smuggler was granted a furlough to attend a funeral and was searched before reentering the prison but because methadone is odorless and colorless the offending underwear went undetected.

### PRAYING FOR METH

Two women were arrested for attempting to manufacture meth in the basement of an Illinois church. The women were spotted at a church that while it should be empty. Once spotted the women fled but were later picked up by police. The meth lab causes a small fire that was quickly extinguished.

### OKRA DOKEY

A Georgia man became curious when a police helicopter was hovering over his home. Soon police with a canine unit arrived to bust him for his grow operation. There was only one problem, he was growing okra not marijuana. Okra plants can look similar to marijuana but one has five leaves instead of seven or nine. The police apologized for their mistake and left the man to tend his garden.

# THE FUTURE OF CSAalert

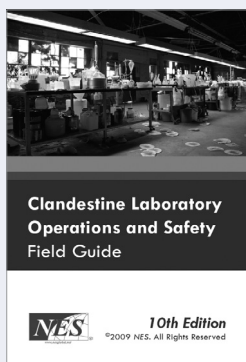
For the last ten years we at NES have strived to produce a newsletter that is a valuable resource for the law enforcement community and we intend to continue doing the same for the next ten. Yet we are not content delivering CSAalert to you the same way or in the same form. 2015 is going to be an exciting one for CSAalert and we'd like to take some time to outline some issues we face and what we have planned to address them.

First, let's talk about some of the current issues facing CSAalert. Currently we deliver the newsletter three times a year which is just enough to keep the law enforcement community up to date but not fast enough to react to the latest stories and developments particularly those concerning the safety of law enforcement and public. Next once we do complete the CSAalert on that schedule we inform the law enforcement community through email the latest issue is available, who then have to log in and download the newsletter. While this method suffices it can be greatly improved on. Users can also download older newsletters but currently there is no method to search past articles. This can be frustrating when you need information you remember reading but not sure which issues it was in. Last, the method that we produce and deliver CSAalert only allows for one way communication: us to you NES would love to get feedback and information for those who face the hazards that we write about.

In order to address these issues in 2015 NES is going to launch the new CSAalert. We will be ditching the newsletter and transition to a blog style website. This website will be updated on a regular basis giving us the ability to react to new trends or safety issues. Most of the stories are not law enforcement sensitive so they will be available to anyone visiting the website but for those stories that contain law enforcement sensitive information users will be able to log in using their own account. Once logged in the CSAalert users will not only gain access to sensitive articles but will be able to search the archives, ask questions, make comments, and discuss with both NES and fellow members of the law enforcement community.

NES is committed to helping the law enforcement community stay safe and informed. We believe in order do that we need to be more flexible and provide a better user experience. 2015 will see a brand new CSAalert and we will keep you updated as we begin to the transition and launch CSAalert the website.

## KNOWLEDGE AT THE READY



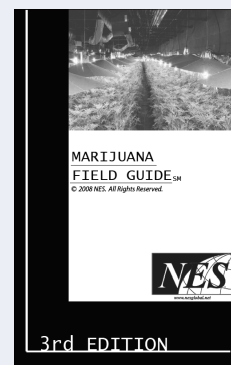
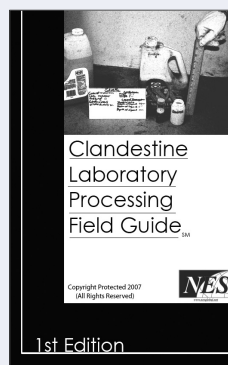
NES Field Guides provide Law Enforcement with important safety information while in the field so that you can keep yourself, fellow officers, and the public safe.

Current list of our Field Guides:

- **Clandestine Laboratory Processing Field Guide<sub>SM</sub> (The Brown Book)**
- **One-Pot Labs: An Operations Reference Guide For Authorized Central Storage Program Participants<sub>SM</sub> (The Gold Book)**
- **Clan Lab Property Contamination Assessment Field Guide<sub>SM</sub> (The White Book)**
- **Marijuana Field Guide<sub>SM</sub> (The Green Book)**
- **Clan Lab First Responder Guide<sub>SM</sub> (The Yellow Book)**
- **Clandestine Laboratory Site Safety Officer Field Guide<sub>SM</sub> (The Red Book)**
- **Clandestine Laboratory Operations and Safety Field Guide<sub>SM</sub> (The Blue Book)**

Shop online at: <http://www.nesglobal.net>

QUESTIONS? CALL NES AT 800 – 637 – 2384



## BITS & PIECES

### FEDEX INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL DRUG SHIPMENTS

FedEx Corporation was charged by the Justice Department with 15 counts of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and misbranded drugs and drug trafficking in July 2014. The company faces twice the potential gain made for shipping controlled substances for illegal internet pharmacies. DOJ estimates FedEx profited approximately \$820 million, raising the potential fine to over \$1.6 billion. FedEx vowed to fight the charges in court, claiming it repeatedly asked U.S. DEA for a list of illegal pharmacies so it would know which ones they could avoid doing business with.

The indictment follows an agreement between DOJ and United Parcel Services, Inc. over similar allegations. In that case, UPS agreed to forfeit \$40 million in payments it received from illicit online pharmacies. In 2013, Walgreen agreed to pay \$80 million for failing to report suspicious drug orders of oxycodone the DOJ claimed weren't for legitimate medical uses. In 2010 CVS Caremark Corp. agreed to pay \$78 million to settle claims several stores in California and Nevada allowed individuals to buy pseudoephedrine used to manufacture methamphetamine. These indictments and settlements underscore DEA's position that everyone involved in the supply chain is responsible and is obligated to understand where their products end up. In some cases, FedEx is alleged to have delivered packages to parking lots and vacant homes.

### RETIRED DEA AGENT MICHAEL VIGIL PUBLISHES "DEAL"

Michael Vigil retired from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration a decade ago. At the time of his retirement, Vigil was Chief of International Operations and was involved in the capture of Juan Ramon Matta Ballesteros, the murderer of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. Vigil recently published his memoirs in a book titled "Deal". In a recent interview with Dane Schiller of the Houston Chronicle, he was asked what advice he would give to anyone taking over DEA in the future. His advice is to be decisive, promote the best of the best to command positions, not be risk averse, and be willing to be waded into controversy.

### ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY LINKS METH USE AND RACE

Andrew M. Fox and Nancy Rodriguez of Arizona State University, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice examined whether race/ethnicity was a significant predictor of methamphetamine use. The study "Using a Criminally Involved Population to Examine the Relationship Between Race/Ethnicity, Structural Disadvantage, and Methamphetamine Use" found that White arrestees from both disadvantaged and advantages areas were more likely than Black and Hispanic/Latino arrestees to test positive for methamphetamine. In summary, meth is most likely used by Whites in less disadvantaged areas. We could tell you this in a different way but it probably wouldn't be politically correct. However, most of those in law enforcement know to keep looking for meth in the trash from trailer parks.

MSA • Lakeland • North • Dupont • Best • Rae Systems • Drager

**Your Clan Lab PPE Specialists**

**Safeware**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP



Ask about  
our complete  
Clan Lab PPE Kits!



Chemical Protective Clothing  
Nomex Protective Clothing  
Respiratory Protection  
Gas Detection Kits  
Gloves and Boots  
Decontamination  
Specialty Tools  
Cooling Vest  
Air Sampling  
Evidence Collection

**GSA Pricing Available**

Contact **Safeware**  
a **FREE Catalog!**  
**800-359-4617**  
**(f) 804-226-0987**

**clanlab@safewareinc.com • www.safewareinc.com**

## Clan Lab Chemistry

**Date & Location:** March 26<sup>th</sup>, Folsom, CA

**Price:** \$269 per student

**Instructor:** Brian Escamilla

The 1 day Clan Lab Chemistry course is a detailed look into the precursors, reagents, by-products, and reaction mechanisms for some of the most popular routes of manufacturing controlled substances. This course will also break down the field tests (color tests) and the advantages and limitations of the hand-held instruments (FTIR, Raman, GC/MS) used at the scenes. The concepts learned in this class will allow the student to make better assessment decisions at clan lab scenes and provide additional technical knowledge as an expert witness.

**To Enroll go to:**

<http://nesglobal.net/clan-lab-chemistry.html>

**or call NES at (800) 637-2384**



## AROUND THE WORLD



### EUROPE

#### EUROPOL AND U.S. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE “DARK NET”

U.S. law enforcement agencies and Europol (the European Union law enforcement agency headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands) conducted “Operation Anonymous”, a joint operation to identify and dismantle international internet sales of weapons and drugs using TOR. TOR is an acronym for “The Onion Router”, a system using multiple layers of encryption and computers to network and hide the identity of its users. The network operates on a part of the internet that few use or know about referred to as the Dark Net or Market. The most infamous of these was the The Silk Road which was taken down by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) about a year ago. Sellers use TOR to sell a variety of contraband, including drugs, weapons and illicit services such as prostitution and hitmen.

“Operation Anonymous” was coordinated by Europol’s European Cybercrime Center (EC3), the FBI, ICE, HIS and other agencies. In November, it was announced that the operation resulted in 17 arrests of vendors and administrators and 410 hidden services were taken down. Bitcoins worth about \$1 million, 180,000 euros (\$220,000 U.S.) in cash, gold and silver were seized.

In September, a Dutch national who created “The Farmer’s Market”, selling LSD, ecstasy and marijuana to users in the U.S. and dozens of other countries was extradited from the Netherlands to face charges in the U.S. The indictment alleges that Mar Williams operated the market using TOR sold about \$2.5 million worth of drugs through “The Farmer’s Market”. In total eight people were arrested, including a defendant from Alpharetta, Georgia.

### METH ON RISE IN EUROPE

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addition (EMCDDA) reports that meth use is on the increase throughout Europe. Most of the meth, about 95% of all the meth consumed in Europe, is being produced by Vietnamese gangs operating out of the Czech Republic. Last year, six tons of meth produced in factory-sized plants, was seized.

Before the breakup of the Soviet Union Czechoslovakia (which divided and became the Czech Republic and Slovakia) was the center of the eastern block’s pharmaceutical industry, making it relatively easy to obtain source materials for the production of meth. In the Czech Republic, meth is referred to as Pervitin, the brand name of the pharmaceutical drug that was used by Adolph Hitler. Pervitin was so cheap in the Czech Republic, it became very popular at the street level.

EMCDDA has seen a change in the profile of people using the drug. It’s popularity has increased with the working class such as office and construction workers. In Germany, meth use has increased by 51% with a significant rise in the number of professionals using the drug. In July of this year a German Member of Parliament admitted using meth. Meth is most popular among affluent gay circles in London and Paris.

### ASIA

#### METH FUELS RISE OF VIOLENCE IN CHINA, METH FROM NORTH KOREA ON THE INCREASE

The growing use of methamphetamine in China is leading to more meth being smuggled into China and an increase in violent crime. In the first nine months of 2014, the number of violent crimes have surpassed the past five years – in total. Last year more than 9 tons of meth was smuggled into China from Myanmar. Some of the meth is also coming from North Korea, having seized \$60 million worth of meth produced in North Korea since about 2010. Although it is being denied by the North Korean government, North Korean documents reveal that a number of large methamphetamine labs have been dismantled in the country over the past year. Some have even accused the government of producing, distributing and even exporting the drug, probably due to the dire North Korean economy. Government officials claim it was orchestrated by a few corrupt government officials who have been caught and punished.

China is suspected of having 14 million drug users, an estimate that is five times greater than the number claimed by the government. Half of those drug users are meth users. China recently arrested 24,000 people and investigated 100,000 users over a 50-day period to crack down on the use of methamphetamine. In October 2014, 13 drug dealers were arrested and over 9,000 kg of drugs were seized.

The production and use of synthetics, particularly methamphetamine, has risen significantly in East and Southeast Asia, much of it produced in China and Myanmar. Between 2009 and 2011, the number of meth labs dismantled in the region increased 90%. Myanmar, which is the largest producer of meth in Southeast Asia signed a landmark agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to implement a program to tackle their drug problem.

## ODD-COLORED HEROIN SHOWING UP IN MYNAMAR

Increased demand for heroin in Southeast Asia has driven prices up. The demand is so high that it has exceeded supply and with it, the purity of the drug has dropped to dilute the drug. Producers and distributors are adding a variety of chemicals to dilute the heroin, resulting in unusual colors of heroin. Heroin, which is normally white to beige in the region, is being found in odd colors such as canary yellow, cotton-candy pink and pumpkin orange. The chemicals used to adulterate and dilute the heroin vary. Some of the odd-colored heroin has recently shown up in Thailand, a prime market for the Mynamar heroin.

## THAILAND EXTRADITES NORTH KOREAN METH SMUGGLERS TO U.S.

The U.S. charged five individuals suspected of smuggling meth from North Korea to the U.S. The five suspects extradited from Thailand included two British, one Chinese, and one Filipino citizen and one suspect of unnamed citizenship. The five based their operation in the Philippines and attempted to send 100 kgs (220 lbs) of North Korean-produced meth packaged in tea leaves by boat to the U.S. The individuals were arrested in Thailand in September of 2013 and extradited to the U.S. in August of this year.

## RECORD LEVELS OF OPIUM PRODUCED IN AFGHANISTAN

Despite U.S. efforts to tackle opium production in Afghanistan, the production of opium has grown to record levels. According to a report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the U.S. has invested \$7.6 billion in counter-narcotic efforts in the country.

Afghan farmers grew a record 209,000 hectares (516,000 acres) of opium poppies in 2013, an increase of 36% over 2012. Afghanistan produced about 5,500 metric tons of raw opium, up 49% over 2012. The UNODC estimates the value of opium production in Afghanistan at \$950 million and the value of opium and its derivatives was about \$3 billion in 2013, almost 15% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. The UNODC believes opium cultivation is likely to increase with the U.S. withdrawal and low levels of eradication.

# CLAN LAB PRODUCTS

## CLAN LAB FIELD WIZARD VERSION 2.0 \$179.00

### Description:

The Clan Lab Field Wizard is a powerful tool for law enforcement responding to a clandestine laboratory. The Clan Lab Field Wizard can estimate yield, give important safety information based on a number of criteria, and help identify chemicals and methods common to clandestine laboratories

## QUIZ SHOW – CLAN LAB REFRESHER \$49.99

### Description:

The “Quiz Show” CD will provide an innovative and entertaining training option for your employees. Students will be quizzed on the following topics:

- **Manufacturing Methods**
- **Hazards**
- **Air Monitoring**
- **PPE**
- **Respiratory Protection**

## QUIZ SHOW – ONE-POTS & MORE \$49.99

### Description:

One-pot labs are a growing trend across the country. Educate your personnel with this specialie quiz show covering:

- **Chemistry**
- **Chemical Handling**
- **Decon**
- **PPE**
- **And more...**

## CLAN LAB REFRESHER KIT \$299.00

### Description:

Everything needed for complete annual clan lab refresher training: fit –testing instruction, practical exercise worksheets, course quiz, PowerPoint presentation on CD, student training materials and fit testing kit.

Annual 8-hr Refresher required. NES offers a convenient ONLINE Clan Lab Refresher class.

**Note:** Agency verification is required to purchase any of the above products.

## HOW TO ORDER

Purchase online 24/7 at [www.nesglobal.net](http://www.nesglobal.net)  
or call NES at 1 – 800 – 637 – 2384