

Peoria Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Policy 4.31 Clandestine Laboratory Investigations



**“Our Community...
Our Commitment”**

I. POLICY

The presence of hazardous materials found at clandestine laboratories (commonly known as “clan labs”) is a concern of the Peoria Police Department. Hazardous and toxic materials complicate enforcement efforts and require augmentation of traditional procedures to effectively address health, occupational safety, and environmental concerns. Because of the special expertise required for clan lab investigations, seizures, and cleanup, it is essential that the Peoria Police Department coordinate resources with federal, state, and local agencies.

II. PROCEDURES (83.2.1)

A. The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) shall have the responsibility of organizing, coordinating, and assisting in the investigation of all clandestine laboratory investigations.

B. Objectives

1. To enforce and investigate known clandestine laboratories in accordance with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) standards.

2. To comply with federal safety rules and regulations.

3. To coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies during all phases of the investigative process, the seizure process, and cleanup process.

C. Responsibilities: Patrol officers and Clandestine Laboratory Investigators have different responsibilities at the scene of clan labs. Only those officers who have successfully completed the DEA Clandestine Laboratory Investigation training will investigate clan labs.

1. Patrol officer Responsibilities: The Patrol Services Bureau (PSB) is responsible for scene security at all clan labs.

a. When a clandestine laboratory is discovered, officers will not touch anything associated with the laboratory, but will immediately secure the location, and notify the on-duty supervisor.

b. Officers should be observant of any hazards associated with the laboratory to include but not limited to:

(1) Chemicals,

(2) Glassware,

(3) Unmarked containers,

(4) Solvents, or

(5) Any other items which could be associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine.

c. The on-duty supervisor will notify the Street Crime Unit Sergeant, who in turn will notify the on-call SCU detective.

d. Fire Department personnel shall be called immediately to ensure the safety of the public and responding officers.

e. The patrol officer(s) who initially discovered the laboratory will obtain as much information as possible on suspect(s), suspect vehicle(s), circumstances surrounding the discovery, and other pertinent information, which will assist the clandestine laboratory investigator in their investigation.

f. Any and all officers who participated or assisted the lab investigator shall complete their written report/supplement and submit it to the assigned investigator by no longer than their next working day. The officer(s) discovering the clandestine lab shall complete the original face sheet and report detailing the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the clandestine lab.

g. If a clandestine laboratory is discovered in a vehicle, the vehicle will be immediately secured, and the officer(s) discovering the laboratory will ensure that the vehicle is not blocking or endangering the flow of traffic and/or public safety.

(1) If the vehicle is blocking the flow of traffic, officer(s) may only move the vehicle off to the side of the road.

(2) At no time will any portion of a clandestine laboratory be removed from the interior portions (trunk, etc) of a vehicle(s).

(3) At no time will clothing or any personal belongings be removed from the vehicle without the authorization of a certified clandestine laboratory investigator.

h. All evidence items taken from the scene of a clandestine laboratory will be at the direction of the lead Clandestine Laboratory Investigator.

i. Samples of evidence taken by a chemist of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ DPS) will be turned over to the lab investigator, who in turn will impound the samples at the Peoria Police Department and have them submitted to the AZ DPS crime lab.

j. Once the lab scene has been processed and all investigative personnel are preparing to leave the lab scene, the lead lab investigator will place a red warning sticker on the front door of the lab location indicating that a clan lab was found in said location.

k. Fill out appropriate exposure paperwork, if exposure occurred.

2. Clandestine Laboratory Investigator Responsibilities: DEA Certified Clandestine Laboratory Investigators shall be responsible for coordinating the investigation, seizure, and clean up process of all clan labs located in the City.

a. The only personnel who will enter a clandestine laboratory location will be those Detectives/Officers who have completed the required DEA training or Special Assignments Unit (SAU) members who have completed Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) tactical training. All other Detectives or Officers will remain outside the perimeter area, unless authorized to enter by a lab investigator.

b. The most senior lab-investigator will be responsible for the clan lab scene, unless determined differently by the SCU Sergeant.

c. Clan laboratories shall not be entered unless the investigator(s) are equipped with the appropriate equipment needed to conduct the investigation. This equipment shall be minimally comprised of the following:

- (1) Chemical resistant suits
- (2) Hazmat booties
- (3) Air Purifying Respirators (APR)
- (4) Two (2) chemical canisters for use with the APR's
- (5) Chemical resistant gloves
- (6) SCBA

d. All DEA paperwork associated with a clandestine laboratory investigation will be completed by the investigator.

(1) A DEA teletype will be completed and forwarded to the DEA clandestine laboratory supervisor within 24 hours.

(2) All other pertinent paperwork along with the case will be completed in no more than eight (8) working days.

e. Each time that a clan lab or clan lab dumpsite is investigated, it will be the responsibility of the SCU Sergeant to ensure that all appropriate exposure forms/paperwork is completed on all exposed personnel by no later than the following businesses day. A copy of the exposure form will be given to all clan lab personnel.

f. All DEA clandestine laboratory investigators will complete the annual re-certification training given by the DEA to maintain their certification.

3. All clandestine laboratory investigators will submit to an annual medical physical examination as required by the City of Peoria, to ensure that the investigator has not acquired any type of medical condition associated with past or present clandestine laboratory exposure.

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Investigations
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