

TRAINING SEGMENT SIX



METH PREVENTION COOKBOOK
“RECIPES FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY”

TRAINING SEGMENT SIX – 25 Minutes

INTRO: This TRAINING SEGMENT is designed as a short review of the major points from SEGMENT ONE through FIVE. In addition, it will serve as a guide to help you brainstorm ideas for mobilizing your family and community in developing a neighborhood METH awareness/watch plan.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: Following this TRAINING SEGMENT, any remaining questions will hopefully be answered. If you find there is more you'd like to know about the hazards of METH and what is being done in your neighborhood, it is suggested that you contact one of the agencies listed at the end of this TRAINING SEGMENT.

REVIEW, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND YOU:

REVIEW: The information already provided, combined with the True/False Questions at the end of each TRAINING SEGMENT was designed to give you a solid foundation of information on METH and the hazards associated with its production and use outside of legally and medically regulated standards.

We know that ALL drugs produced and used illegally pose hazards and dangers of which we must be aware. However, METH poses so many additional hazards that some experts call it “the greatest disaster America has ever faced.”

With that in mind, let's review some of the important points that were discussed:

1. METH use in any form is hazardous to an individual's physical and psychological health. METH redesigns the brain's nervous system and causes paranoia and delusions in long-term users.
2. The process of cooking METH is extremely dangerous due to the use of caustic and flammable chemicals used near open flames. Add a person high on METH who hasn't slept in days into the mix, and you have the makings of a neighborhood nightmare.
3. While all of the ingredients needed to produce METH can be purchased legally and have legitimate uses, it is important to work with local business owners in developing an action plan to limit and track the quantities of the precursors that are purchased. The goal is to eliminate the METH production capability in all neighborhoods, not just yours.

4. Bioenvironmental hazards are some of the most serious problems faced at METH labs. For every pound of METH made, there are five to six pounds of waste products. Waste comes in the form of caustic and toxic chemicals, contaminated containers and cooking equipment, empty chemical cans, and many more.
5. METH changes the brain's physical makeup or rather the chemistry. Long-term METH users who get into treatment have a harder time in recovery than those treated for use of most other drugs. For a METH user many things can trigger a need for METH so that it takes a restructuring of the users entire lifestyle and a constant effort to stay mentally healthy.
6. Child welfare endangerment is a serious problem and while the actual numbers are still being calculated, it is feared that up to 60% of all home based METH labs have children living in them. Prior to these types of METH education programs, a child found in a home associated with drug use would be taken in to child welfare custody, placed in a foster home with a return to the original home to pick up the child's cloths and toys. With the new awareness of the hazards of METH, procedures now call for a full medical screening for METH contamination of the child. Quite often the child's clothes at home are found so contaminated with METH that they must be destroyed.
7. Cold Cook or Boxed labs are on the rise, and an increasing number of traffic accidents are the result of METH use. Remember the METH user is only looking for a place to cook his next batch of METH and isn't worried about you, your family, or your community. The key word here is "paranoia".
8. Property owners and homeowners must be aware that any home in Washington State, and in many other states, are permanently listed as former METH labs and labeled as such on the property title. Property values are sure to suffer.
9. NEVER confront a user. Avoid them! They are dangerous by nature, and have no second thoughts about causing you or your family serious or fatal harm. "Paranoia" makes you appear to be a threat.
10. Remember that if you suspect a family member of using METH, you must not delay in getting them treatment, even if it means having them arrested.
11. You can make a real difference in your community by educating yourself, your family, and your neighbors about the hazards of METH.

RECOMMENDED and SAMPLE STRATEGIES:

The previous paragraphs hit upon some of the main points from the TRAINING SEGMENTS. Now challenge yourself to come up with a few ideas on how you as individuals can develop a strategy for neighborhood safety. Here are some of the sample ideas submitted by people from the Pierce County area.

1. Spend a weekend visiting local stores to identify and log which METH precursors are available in your area. Meet with business owners that appear to be the most likely targets of METH cooks.
2. Get together with your local Law Enforcement officers to develop a neighborhood watch program designed to provide officers with the information they need to help identify potential METH labs. Then develop a schedule and log/track/report suspicious activities. Community meetings can be as simple or as complex as you make them, but either way they are an important part of safeguarding your neighborhood.
3. Volunteer to educate local public service agencies on what to look for. Sanitation workers, sewer workers, road crews, first responders, and power utility workers are the extra eyes, ears, and minds working right in your community. They too need to know what hazards they may face. REAL STORY: A sanitation worker in Missouri threw a bag of garbage into his truck and the subsequent explosion from the chemicals in the garbage bag engulfed the truck in a matter of seconds. He was lucky to get away with no serious injuries.

These are just a few of the ideas people have to protect their families and neighborhoods. Remember your plan does not have to be strictly your own plan or a community plan. Come up with some ideas and prioritize them as to how they will help protect your family. Remember that you are not simply looking to educate your family on the hazards of using METH, but developing a plan to protect them from the many other hazards posed by METH.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, the current number of METH labs reported and shut down in Pierce County as of June 2000 is 264, with a total in Washington State of 670. Law Enforcement and community education will make those numbers rise for along time, but in time they will begin to drop again due to your support of your community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

You may be still wondering what you can do to make changes. You've already done a lot by reading through this METH package and educating yourself.

Now that you know the hazards of home-based/ clandestine METH labs, it is up to you to decide how you will use this information. It's a lot to take in, and there's still a lot to learn.

There are no simple answers and people don't stop doing drugs because you tell them to. For the criminal element it is a business, a profit, and a living. For those trapped in the cycle of METH use/abuse, it is a deception created by METH due to the changes their minds and bodies have gone through.

For you, your family, and your community, it is a threat that is all too real to ignore. We all have a stake in and a responsibility in working to eliminate this threat. Remember that when you feel most alone in your efforts, that it took only one angry mother to create MADD and change the laws on drinking and driving. Her determination came from the loss of her child. Get your determination from not wanting to lose a member of your family to METH.

By educating yourself on the dangers of METH, you have already taken the first step in your fight against METH in your community.

Remember: YOU are the most important ingredient in your "Recipe for Community Safety".

The quiz for TRAINING SEGMENT SIX is:

What are you going to do now?

METH AND COUNTERDRUG SUPPORT CONTACT NUMBERS

1) **NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG OFFICE (800) 377-5534**

2) **SAFE STREETS CAMPAIGN Office: (253) 272-6824**

3) **Your Local Law Enforcement:**

Contact Name _____

Phone Number _____

4) **Northwest HIDTA Hotline: 1-888-609-6384**

5) **For information on National Guard Counterdrug Support provided in your community, contact the Washington State National Guard Counterdrug Coordinator: (253) 512-8894**

6) **OTHERS:**

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____

NAME _____ **NUMBER** _____