

HAZARD ALERT

RISK MANAGEMENT SECTION



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Date: 5/6/09

Alert No: 02

Source:

Internal

External

Author: RMS

Identified Hazard: Illegal Bush Drug Laboratories

Risk Rating:

Low

Moderate

High

Significant

Nature of Incident:

Injury

Property Damage

Near-hit

Other:

Description of Incident:

Staff have found remnants of illegal drug laboratories along road sides, within bushland and adjacent bush fires.

Incident Time and Date:

2009 Fire Season

Equipment Involved:

Inhaling or ingesting poisonous gas (many invisible, odourless and colourless)

Background Information:

Employees from DEC have inadvertently come across illegal drug laboratories in the bush.

Recommendations:

If a suspected drug manufacturing laboratory is found:

- Stay upwind and up hill of the scene, and avoid exposure to any odours
- Call the District office or your supervisor immediately to inform of the find and location. Notify WA Police (131444) and DEC Pollution Response Unit (1300 784 782).
- Ensure that no potentially hostile persons are in the area BEFORE you investigate further.
- Cordon off the area and ensure no uncontrolled access by the public and protect the crime scene for forensic examination
- If permission to enter has been given by WA Police and your supervisor, and it is safe to enter, stay upwind and no closer than 3 metres from any containers.
- DO NOT open any drums, touch or interfere with any of the items
- Write down as much information as possible (this may be of benefit to police and yourself if you are required to go to court and present your information – usually at a much later date) on the location, time, items found (number, size colour and material of containers), names written on drums or bags of items
- Take photographs (use telephone camera if non other is available) of any/all items found is safe to do so (upwind and three metres away minimum). WARNING, FLAMMABLE GASES CAN BE IGNITED BY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS CAMERAS.
- If required contact POLICE or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000
Police will ask you questions about the find - have all the above information at hand. Police may wish to visit the site

and may require you to stay on site. If this is the case inform your supervisor or Duty Officer or District, Manager.

ENSURE DETAILS OF INCIDENT AND LESSONS LEARNT ARE COMMUNICATED AND STAFF INFORMED

Ensure this message is located on ALL safety notice boards and brought to the attention of ALL staff.

Ensure ALL staff are aware of this issue during briefings.

Items that may be encountered at these sites include;

- Bags of fertilizer with Ammonia (Sulphate of Ammonia)
- Drums such as "Home Brew" type
- Containers of Caustic soda
- LPG gas cylinders
- Pseudo-ephedrine tablets
- PVC pipes

Photos of a drug lab site found in Bushland;



Sulphate of Ammonia fertilizer bag



Fuel containers



"Home brew" type containers



Caustic soda & "Cough" medicine containers

Produced by Risk Management Section-
Kensington.

