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## CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB RESPONSE

### SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

### PURPOSE

To establish the procedures for a safe incident response to a clandestine drug lab by members of Stoney Point Fire Department.

### DEFINITIONS

**Guideline** - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

**Member** – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

**Regional Response Team** – (RRT) state funded regionally assigned personnel and equipment that respond to hazardous materials incidents

**Shall** - indicates a mandatory requirement

Policy Number

**5F.006**

Page 1 of 3

### GUIDELINES

Stoney Point Fire Department is an all hazards emergency response organization. The growing illicit drug problem within the United States of America has increased the likelihood of emergency responders encountering a clandestine drug lab during an emergency incident response. Therefore all operational members of the department shall maintain situational awareness throughout the incident for signs of a possible clandestine drug lab.

#### **Response**

Company Officers, Incident Commanders and individual Firefighters/Emergency Medical Technicians shall carefully size up the incident scene upon arrival and inform the crew and Dispatch of any potential threats, to include indicators of a clandestine drug lab. These indicators include:

- Large amounts of uncollected exterior trash, numerous propane tanks
- Excessive security, cameras, locks, exterior lighting
- Drawn curtains, blacked out windows, suspicious looking exterior
- Odd looking plumbing, diverted electrical lines, improvised ventilation
- Strong unusual odors, ammonia, cat urine, rotten eggs



## Programs

## Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

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### Incident Management

Upon recognition of a scene as being a potential clandestine drug lab, the Incident Commander shall discretely evacuate all personnel to a safe location.

- Notify Dispatch immediately for an appropriate law enforcement and HAZMAT response, preferably utilizing the IPAD to prevent interception by anyone utilizing a scanner
- Evacuate nearby residences as the situation dictates, if possible, to do so safely
- Request the Regional Response Team for any imminent or ongoing hazardous materials release
- Conduct immediate decontamination procedures for all exposed personnel and equipment
- Establish a Unified Command with HAZMAT and law enforcement
- Have exposed personnel evaluated, treated, and transported as needed by Cumberland County Emergency Medical Services
- Exposed personnel shall complete a Hazardous Materials Exposure Report Form

**Policy Number**

**5F.006**

**Page 2 of 3**

### Firefighting Operations

Stoney Point Fire Department shall not conduct interior firefighting attack on any known drug lab. However, the likelihood of knowing that a structure is a clandestine drug lab prior to conducting offensive operations is relatively low. Therefore, situational awareness is extremely important for all members at the incident. The following steps shall be implemented upon identification of the structure as a drug lab:

- Do NOT shut off any water, electricity, or other devices to the structure
- Safely evacuate all interior firefighting personnel
- Perform exposure protection and defensive exterior firefighting procedures
- Do not apply water directly onto the lab site or structure
- Request HAZMAT and establish an exclusion zone surrounding the structure
- Decontaminate and treat exposed Responders, residents, and equipment
- Treat water runoff as hazardous materials, conduct damming and diking operations
- Do not conduct salvage or overhaul operations



## Programs

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### Law Enforcement Operations Assistance

Stoney Point Fire Department may assist law enforcement with clandestine drug lab seizure operations in a defensive mode. Law enforcement agencies requiring assistance shall request that assistance through Dispatch and if possible, contact the Fire Chief directly. Requests shall include location and time of support, resources and personnel required and the location of a safe staging area. A briefing with the Officers and members to be involved should be conducted if time permits. Stoney Point Fire Department members shall not participate in any offensive operations such as forced

### References

Responding to Fires at Clandestine Methamphetamine Drug Laboratories

**Policy Number**

**5F.006**

**Page 3 of 3**