



Illicit Drug Labs

A Safe Response for Public Safety Personnel

Course Duration: 8 hours (1 day).

Learning Objectives:

Given an 8-hour course on illicit drug labs, students will be able to describe illicit drug lab incidents and the duties of an operations level responder assigned to respond to illicit lab incidents as outlined in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472, Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents.

- Define terms—illicit drug labs and illicit weapons of mass destruction labs.
- Describe historic trends in methamphetamine use and production.
- Describe three general categories of illicit drug labs.
- List at least five common locations of illicit drug labs.
- List at least five clues for identifying illicit drug labs.
- Describe operational hazards, considerations, and products involved in the illicit drug manufacturing process.
- Describe potential booby traps encountered by response personnel.
- Describe coordination of a joint reconnaissance when law enforcement has jurisdiction.
- Describe safe procedures and tactical guidelines.
- Identify appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and chemical protective clothing (CPC) for fire fighters and HazMat technicians responding to an illicit drug lab.
- Discuss the limitations of structural fire fighting gear in preventing chemical exposures.
- Describe decontamination procedures for responders and civilians encountered at an illicit drug lab.
- Identify chemical hazards when responding to a reported illicit drug lab.
- Describe atmospheres which need to be monitored.
- Select appropriate detection devices when performing mission-specific operations.
- Identify appropriate tactics to use based on mission-specific operations.
- Identify appropriate applications of air monitoring and detection readings at different stages, or for a specific mission (e.g., in a situation where it's a high-risk warrant).
- Interpret readings from detection devices when monitoring an illicit lab.
- Describe roles of the following personnel at the scene of illicit drug lab incidents:
 - First Responder
 - HazMat Technician

International Association of Fire Fighters

Course Description



- Emergency Medical Technician
- Law Enforcement Agencies

Target Audience:

The IAFF developed this course for those fire, rescue, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, and other first responders who may respond to incidents where illicit drug labs are present.

Instructor Qualifications:

The IAFF currently has a team of 92 fire fighter/paramedic master instructors, with an average of 23 years of fire service experience, who specialize in student-centered, active learning techniques. Each master instructor possesses a minimum of five years of fire fighting and HazMat experience before being appointed as an IAFF master instructor. Upon appointment, master instructors participate in the IAFF's Educational Methodology program which includes adult learning principles, target audience characteristics, instructional methodology, and practice using facilitation skills to deliver content and solve any facilitation problems that may arise. Master instructors also receive 1-day of training specific to delivery of the Illicit Drug Labs course.

In addition to master instructors, the IAFF prepares local instructors to deliver its courses through its train-the-trainer program. Local instructors interested in attending the train-the-trainer program must satisfy the following prerequisites:

- At least one year of teaching experience
- Certification to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications Level I or equivalent
- Demonstrated ability to teach from prepared materials
- Training to at least the NFPA 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials, First Responder Operations level (or awareness for non-fire service)
- Recent hazardous materials field experience and emergency medical training



International Association of Fire Fighters Course Description

Syllabus

Illicit Drug Labs

This IAFF training is available throughout the United States. To request training, mail, fax or email requests to:

Harold A. Schaitberger, General President
International Association of Fire Fighters
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Fax: (202) 637-0839 / Email: hazmat@iaff.org

Instructors

The IAFF provides a team of professional instructors, from across the country, composed of fire fighters/EMS personnel/HazMat Team Members. Instructors may be drawn from the national cadre of IAFF Master Instructors or local instructors trained by the IAFF.

Contact Information

The IAFF does not provide instructors' contact information. However, students may contact the IAFF HazMat/WMD Training Department for additional course-related information at:

International Association of Fire Fighters
HazMat/WMD Training Department
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Fax: (202) 737-8484 / Email: hazmat@iaff.org

Course Description

This course provides the information first responders need to understand to respond to incidents where illicit drug labs are present:

- The chemistry involved in producing illicit drugs



International Association of Fire Fighters Course Description

- How to minimize the risk of explosions, fires, chemical burns, and toxic fumes
- How to handle, store, and dispose of the hazardous materials used in illicit drug labs
- The laws that govern the manufacture of chemicals, hazardous materials, occupational safety, environmental protection, and child protection
- How to collaborate with personnel from various agencies, particularly law enforcement

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Schedule

- Unit 1 – Introduction
 - Types, categories, and distribution of illicit drug labs
 - Illicit drug lab facts
 - Common locations for illicit drug labs
- Unit 2 – Illicit Lab Hazards & Safe Operation Guidelines
 - Clues to help responders recognize possible drug labs
 - Hazards at illicit drug labs
 - Safety procedures and tactical guidelines
 - Hazardous and safe actions for responders at illicit drug labs
- Unit 3: Personal Protective Equipment & Decontamination
 - Structural fire fighting protective clothing (SFPC)
 - Respiratory protective equipment
 - Chemical protective clothing (CPC)
 - Selection of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Contamination
 - Decontamination methods and plans
 - Decontamination of suspects and evidence
- Unit 4: Air Monitoring & Detection
 - Atmospheres which need to be monitored
 - Selection of detectors

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Course Description



- Tactics to be used based on mission-specific operation
- Unit 5: The Fire Department's Role
 - A-P-I-E
 - Fire department support
 - Defensive actions
 - Entry
 - Disposal of waste and explosive devices
 - Deactivation phase

Required Reading

All required reading materials are provided in the Student Manual for the course. Additional suggested readings may be included in expanded information sections.