

# Safety Alert – Hazardous Materials

The following information, if followed, will help protect individuals from dangers posed by Hazardous Waste along the highways.

**METH LAB WASTES:** Methamphetamine drug lab waste can be found in many shapes and forms. Over 300 different chemicals can be used in production of the drug depending on the procedure used. The waste can be disposed of in many different ways.



Propane cylinders from grills are used to transport anhydrous ammonia. This ammonia can burn your skin and cause very severe respiratory damage. These tanks, when used with the brass fitting, can explode when moved. The ammonia degrades the brass to the point where it can blow the fitting out of the tank, endangering individuals in the area. The brass fittings on the tanks will turn a blue to blue green color as shown in the picture on the left. Some tanks have been modified with other fittings. If you find cylinders, **DO NOT**



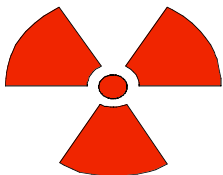
**TOUCH** but note location and report it to your local police department and your North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) county maintenance office.



Other meth lab waste could be medicine boxes, pill residue (putty looking substance pink to red in color), respirator masks, rubber gloves, rubber hosing and clamps, pyrex glass, corning containers and other containers with rubber hoses attached. Bed sheets or pillowcases stained red or containing a white powdery residue may also be found.



## RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS:



If you see this symbol or the words **RADIOACTIVE** on a package, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

## BIOHAZARD MATERIAL - MEDICAL WASTE:



This is the symbol for biohazard materials that could possibly be found on the roadway. If you find a container with this symbol **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.



This container was labeled as having Methyl Ethyl Ketone in it. It was tested and found to contain used motor oil. Labels on containers **DO NOT** always correspond with their contents. If you find a container that has a material in it, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

The lid on this drum is expanded outwards which indicates a good possibility of pressure inside container. There is a danger of exploding if this container were moved or touched. Other types of containers may also be found and if you are unsure whether the container is safe to handle, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.



## **OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

*Never pick up the following:*

Antifreeze	Hypodermic needles
Abandoned barrels	Narcotics
Broken automotive batteries	Paint cans
Bulging or dented containers	Pesticide/Herbicide containers
Chemical containers	Propane tanks
Containers leaking an unknown substance	Sharp objects
Containers of unidentifiable materials	Unidentifiable containers
Dead animals	Used oil
Gas Cans	Weapons

### **DO:**

1. Always approach a container from uphill and upwind. The wind will blow any vapors away from you and approaching from uphill will prevent you from walking into any chemical present on the ground.
2. Leave the area immediately if you detect any odors out of the ordinary. Odors can be connected with meth lab hazardous waste as well as other chemicals found, so do be alert for odors that are:
  - Ether-like
  - Solvent-like
  - Vinegar-like
  - Ammonia-like
3. Put your safety and the safety of the individuals with you **FIRST AND FOREMOST**.
4. If you feel a situation is or could possibly be unsafe leave the area immediately, be careful, don't take chances and please work safely.
5. Note the location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

# One Pot Meth Labs Dangers to First Responders



## One Pot Lab



- Fire hazard from lithium and water reaction inside white gas solution.
- Explosive hazard from production of ammonia gas over-pressurizing container.
- Exothermic chemical reactions.



## HCL Generator



- Very acidic gas.
- Corrosive to human tissue.
- Respiratory hazard.



## Acids



- Corrosive chemicals.
- Hydrochloric acid.
- Sulfuric acid
- Used in production of hydrogen chloride gas. (acid gas)



## Sodium Hydroxide



- Extremely corrosive to eyes/skin tissue.
- Used for production of ammonia gas.



## Flammable Liquid



- Extreme fire hazard/explosive hazard.
- Contains known carcinogens.
- LEL may be exceeded.



## Lithium



- Obtained from lithium batteries.
- Will react violently with water producing fire hazard.



## Ammonium Nitrate



- Strong oxidizer.
- Potentially explosive when mixed with fuel oil.

